DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Sinner has the last laugh

Italian downs Spanish rival Alcaraz to win his second consecutive title

Page 15

45 Indian pilgrims killed in bus accident near Saudi's Madinah

Most victims from Hyd; diesel tanker collides with bus

HYDERABAD, DHNS

At least 45 people from Hyderabad, who were on the Umrah pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia, were killed when a diesel tanker collided with the bus they were travelling in near the Islamic holy city of Madinah in the early hours of Monday.

The deceased include 17 men, 18 women and 10 children. The accident occurred around 1.30 am local time (4 am Indian Standard Time) near Mufrihat, approximately 160 km from Madinah.

The victims included 18 members of a family.

Sources in the Telangana government said most bus passengers were asleep when the diesel tanker reportedly veered off course and collided with the bus, which caused the vehicles to catch fire.

Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar said the pilgrims were part of a 54-member group that left Hyderabad for Makkah on November 9.

Among them, four travelled to Madinah by car and four others stayed behind in Makkah. The remaining 46 pilgrims continued by bus, with only one of them miraculously escaping the accident.

"Seven of our family members were killed in the blast. A total of 20 people from our locality had gone on Umrah together through a local tour operator. We came to know about the tragedy in the early hours of Monday from the lone survivor...We are all in shock," said Mohammed Tehseen, a resident of Asif Nagar.

▸ Saudi, Page 6
Related reports, Page 11

A local legislator consoles a family member of the accident victims, in Hyderabad, on Monday. PTI

Hubballi man dies in bus tragedy

A person from Hubballi was among those who were killed in the Saudi bus tragedy. He was identified as Abdulgani Shirahatti (52).

Delhi blast: Another key suspect held

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday arrested another key suspect in the Red Fort car bomb blast case for allegedly modifying drones and attempting to fabricate rudimentary rockets ahead of the November 10 car bombing.

The agency said it had arrested Jasir Bilal Wani, alias Danish, a resident of Qazigund in Anantnag district, from Srinagar. Jasir is the son of Bilal Ahmad Wani, a dry fruit seller who set himself on fire on Sunday, allegedly after being repeatedly denied permission to meet his detained son and brother. Bilal, shifted from Anantnag Hospital to SMHS Hospital late Sunday night, died of severe burn injuries shortly after midnight.

Jasir's arrest marks a significant addition to the agency's list of alleged conspirators in the Red Fort blast investigation.

▸ NIA, Page 11
Red Fort blast: Death toll rises to 15, Page 11

B'desh tribunal sentences ousted PM Hasina to death

Guilty of 'crimes against humanity'; Dhaka asks India to extradite her

DHAKA, PTI

Bangladesh's deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina was on Monday sentenced to death in absentia by a special tribunal for "crimes against humanity" over her government's brutal crackdown on student-led protests last year.

In its verdict that followed a months-long trial, the country's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) described the 78-year-old Awami League leader as the "mastermind and principal architect" of the violent repression that killed hundreds of protesters. It also handed the death sentence to former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal on similar charges.

Hasina has been living in India since she fled Bangladesh on August 5 last year in the face of the massive protests. She was earlier declared a fugitive by the court.

Hours after the verdict, which was broadcast live on national television, Bangladesh's foreign ministry demanded that Hasina and former home minister Kamal be immediately handed over under an extradition treaty in view of their sentencing.

"We call on the Indian government to immediately hand over these two convicted individuals to the Bangladeshi authorities," the foreign ministry said in a statement in Bengali.

"This is also a duty for India, as per the extradition treaty existing between the two countries," the statement said.

"It would be an extremely unfriendly act and a contempt for justice if any other country were to grant asylum to these individuals," it said.

▸ Hasina, Page 6

Police disperse protesters outside the demolished residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in Dhaka, on Monday. AP/PTI

'JUDGMENT DAY'

- Hasina described the ICT as a 'kangaroo court'
- Her defence lawyer Md Amir Hossain, appointed by Bangladesh authorities, said Hasina could only appeal if she "surrenders... or is arrested"
- UN says 'regrets' death penalty ordered for Hasina
- International Crimes Tribunal was originally set up to try collaborators of Pakistani forces during the 1971 war
- It was amended by current administration to bring leaders of the past regime under its jurisdiction

"In their distasteful call for the death penalty, they reveal the brazen and murderous intent of extremist figures within the interim govt

SHEIKH HASINA, Ex B'desh PM

Committed to people's interest: MEA

India said it has noted the tribunal verdict and that it will engage constructively with all stakeholders in Bangladesh. The MEA said India remains committed to the best interests of people of Bangladesh.

Details on Page 12

CM meets Kharge, K'taka Cabinet rejig likely early next year

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The long-pending Karnataka Cabinet reshuffle is likely to take place early next year as Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge told Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to come back after discussions with Karnataka in-charge General Secretary Randeep Surjewala after the Parliament session.

Siddaramaiah was closeted with Kharge for more than 45 minutes in a one-on-one meeting. Even Dy CM D K Shivakumar was not present as he left for Bengaluru early to attend to 'personal' work, sources told *DH*. When the CM raised the rejig issue, Kharge asked him to discuss with Shivakumar and Surjewala and come up with concrete proposals.

▸ CM meets, Page 6
CM's wife in ICU, Page 4

CM meets PM, raises issues

The CM on Monday called on the PM and raised a number of the state's issues pending with the Centre, including release of funds.

Details on Page 5

KSCA elections deferred to Dec 30

BENGALURU, DHNS: Following a day of dramatic developments, uncertainty loomed over the date of the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) elections, which were scheduled to be held on November 30 as per earlier notifications.

On Monday, the Electoral Officer wrote to the KSCA, postponing the poll to December 30 in order to clear certain "doubts".

Details on Page 16

India, US close to inking first tranche of trade deal related to tariffs

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India and the United States are close to announcing the first tranche of trade deal, which will address issues related to the 25% reciprocal tariff and the additional 25% punitive tariff imposed by the Trump administration due to India's economic engagement with Russia, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said on Monday.

Agrawal told reporters that officials are negotiating the issue on a regular basis through virtual mode and the first tranche of the deal would be announced soon.

However, he refused to give any deadline saying usually the last round negotiations are the toughest.

India and the US launched negotiations for a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) in March this year.

▸ Trade deal, Page 6

Assam: EC orders 'Special Revision'

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Poll-bound Assam will have a 'Special Revision' of electoral rolls instead of the contentious Special Intensive Revision (SIR), with the EC announcing on Monday that house-to-house verification of voters will begin on Saturday and the final rolls will be published in February.

The Assam exercise has notable variations from the ongoing SIR in other states.

Details on Page 7

Racing: K'taka prepares Bill to allow betting

The Karnataka government has prepared a Bill that will allow online wagering or betting on racing events, which is expected to be introduced in the upcoming winter session of the legislature. The government said it is "keeping with the current trend" in other states.

Details on Page 5

HIGH ON ROAD

Year	Drunk driving violations	Highlights
2021	4,144	Low figure, likely due to post-pandemic period
2022	26,371	Significant surge
2023	7,053	Sharp dip in cases
2024	23,620	Rebound in reported cases
2025*	**30,736**	**5-year high** *till Nov 15

Bengaluru cops clock 5-year high in booking drunk drivers

DH SPECIAL

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru has recorded a new high in drunk driving cases this year, with 30,736 violations reported by the Bengaluru Traffic Police till November 15. The figure, which is the highest since 2021 and surpasses the 23,620 cases recorded throughout 2024, highlights both a persistent risk on the city's roads and an intensified enforcement by the police.

The increase comes after a period of fluctuation. Data accessed by *DH* revealed a surge from 4,144 cases in 2021 to 26,371 in 2022. The numbers saw a sharp dip to 7,053 in 2023, before rebounding to 23,620 last year and reaching the current high.

Top brass in the city police attributed the figure not just to increased prevalence of drunk driving, but also to a focused "change of strategy".

▸ Drunk driving, Page 6

Revised ad policy opens doors to hoardings on footpaths

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Amid rising pedestrian deaths, the Karnataka government has lifted an explicit ban on commercial hoardings on Bengaluru's footpaths.

Under the new "industry-friendly" rules, advertisers can install hoardings not just on private premises but also on public spaces if they secure permission from the city corporation commissioner and pay the ground rent. This is expected to open the doors for hoardings on footpaths.

The revised advertisement policy — notified on November 13 — has relaxed rules that once kept advertisers at bay. Just recently, companies had skipped the bidding for citywide advertising rights by blaming stringent norms laid down by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

"There shall be no hoarding or advertisement on footpaths unless it is permitted by the city corporation... without causing any hindrance or annoyance to footpath users," it has stated, potentially allowing its misuse.

This is a sharp departure from the July notification, which had made the protection of pedestrians explicit. "There shall be no hoarding or advertisement on footpaths," the earlier policy had stated.

For pedestrians, the most vulnerable road users, the U-turn will make walking a perilous task. It comes at a time when pedestrians have to vie for space with vehicles.

Related report, Page 2

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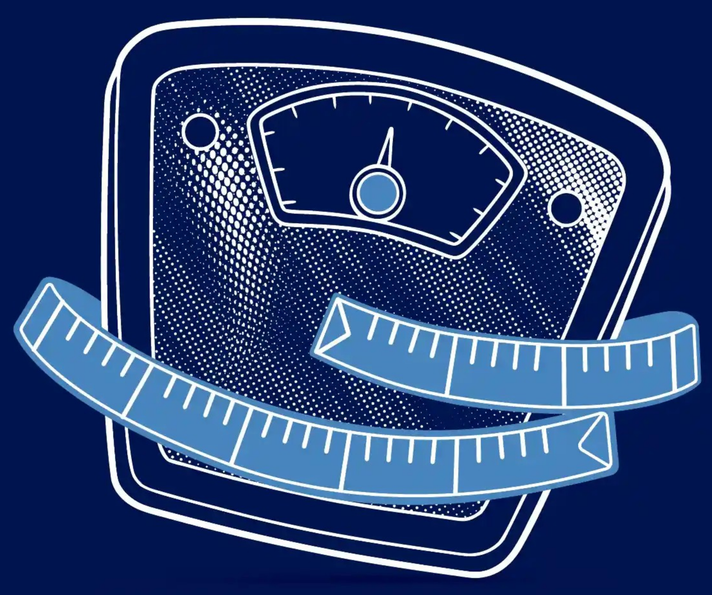

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HOME GROWN

State govt launches AI-ready, affordable PC 'KEO'

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a bid to make affordable computing accessible at the grassroots, the Karnataka government on Monday announced the launch of KEO (Knowledge-driven, Economical, Open-source), an AI-ready personal computer designed and developed in the state.

IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge said the Department of Electronics, IT & BT, in association with Karnataka Electronics Development Corporation (Keonics), has launched KEO, which is the state's answer to the digital divide.

Though the minister did not disclose the cost of the PC (it will be revealed at the Bengaluru Tech Summit on November 18), he said it will be affordable, and is built on an open-source RISC-V processor.

IT&BT Minister Priyank Kharge and Keonics chairman Sharath Kumar Bache Gowda with the KEO PC.

KEO has been in the works for a year, and it will be custom-built together with startups and semiconductor companies.

"The idea of the government or the department is to ensure that we make affordable hardware, especially AI-enabled, on a scale, so that we can ensure grassroots computing, which is very important for us. We have partnered with one semiconductor firm, and also with a chip design company," the minister said.

KEO features 4G, Wi-Fi, Ethernet, USB-A and USB-C ports, HDMI, audio jack support, and it also comes preloaded with BUD*DH*, an AI agent trained on the Karnataka DSERT syllabus to assist students even in low-connectivity regions.

"The AI agent will answer any query almost in realtime with respect to the syllabus. And if they want to go beyond that syllabus, they can do that too," Kharge said.

As of now, the agent is trained in English and in the future, it will include Kannada as well.

▸ KEO, Page 6

TECH-LED ENFORCEMENT

BWSSB's 'Blue Force' to clamp down on unauthorised water use

To use robotic technology to collect data, spot leakages

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will soon take action against citizens using illegal or bypass water and sewage connections, deploying the 'Blue Force' on ground.

The Blue Force, a specially constituted three-member team that will begin operations this week, will act on data collected using robotic technology.

"It is a blend of enforcement and technology to ensure violators are identified and booked. Illegal connections result in huge revenue loss, and it is necessary that these be cut down or regularised to prevent losses," BWSSB Chairman Ramprasat Manohar V said.

The board has entered into an agreement with a technology company to provide robotic services, including pipeline inspection, identifying exact locations of leakage, AI-based defect detection, and digital mapping of the pipeline network.

"We already have some data about suspicious users, and the Blue Force will start to check on them this week. We have constituted 16 teams, one team per subdivision," a senior official said.

This will also prevent unnecessary road cutting, which inconveniences the public.

"Even when there is a complaint about leakage or misuse, cutting the road to determine the exact location and then repair takes time and inconveniences people. Now, robotic technology will provide an exact location of the problem, prevent a lot of issues and offer a faster solution," another official explained.

RAMPRASAT MANOHAR V
BWSSB Chairman

"It is a blend of enforcement and technology to ensure violators are identified and booked. Illegal connections result in huge revenue loss, and it is necessary that these be cut down or regularised to prevent losses.

In the past, there have been instances where consumers installed pipelines before the meter to draw water. Some large apartments have discharged sewage into the network without applying for a sewage connection. All such violators will now be identified with the help of robotic technology and the Blue Force, officials said.

Manohar urged people to abide by the law and voluntarily regularise any illegal connections.

The move is expected to reduce Unaccounted for Water, which currently stands at close to 28%, meaning that nearly 28% of water supplied to Bengaluru is lost due to leakages or illegal connections.

BMRCL receives bomb threat email; police term it hoax

BENGALURU, DHNS

Wilson Garden police booked an unidentified person for allegedly emailing a bomb threat to the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), warning that a metro station in the city would be blown up.

Police registered an FIR on November 15, after receiving court permission. A non-cognisable report (NCR) was filed first, based on a November 14 complaint from Rathish Thomas, 50, Assistant Executive Engineer (Cybersecurity) at BMRCL.

The FIR stated that on November 13 at 11.25 pm, the BMRCL's official email received a message from 'rajivsettyptp@gmail.com'.

The email threatened to bomb a metro station if BMRCL employees allegedly harassed the sender's ex-wife after work hours. The message also contained inflammatory remarks, the FIR stated.

"If ever I come to know that your metro employees are torturing mentally to my past divorced wife Padmini after duty hours, be careful, one of your metro station gets blasted ... I am also a terrorists liker PATRIOTIC against KANNADIGAS," the email read, as per the FIR.

Police declared the threat a hoax and launched an investigation under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Section 351 (criminal intimidation). The suspect has been identified and is expected to be arrested soon. Investigation continues.

FIR against those burning waste in public

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) has decided to take stringent action against people who burn any form of waste in public places.

Officials have announced that a decision has been made to initiate a first information report (FIR) against the offenders by filing a case with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and the district magistrate.

Speaking to reporters, BSWML's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Karee Gowda said the 2016 solid waste management rules stipulate various provisions to act against persons who continue to burn garbage, which contributes to air pollution and poses a health hazard, especially in the city's outskirts.

Under the SWM rules, he stated that a penalty of Rs 10,000 applies for burning domestic waste, while bulk waste generators can be fined up to Rs 25,000.

"If event organisers burn garbage, they can be fined up to Rs 5 lakh. In addition to the penalties, the Environmental Protection Act of 1986 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of 1974 have provisions that allow for imprisonment of offenders. Going forward, we plan to invoke these penal provisions," he said.

The BSWML had earlier made headlines by dumping a tipper load of garbage back at the doorsteps of households that threw the garbage in public places.

Revised ad rules poised to pack cityscape with more billboards

Upturns earlier conditions; slashes fees, increases space, extends payment deadlines

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

The ad policy has been revised only months after the hoarding ban was lifted amid concerns over visual clutter.

Ad fees reduced

Advertisement fees have also been reduced. Advertisers will now pay Rs 45 to Rs 75 per sqft, depending on the hoarding size, down from Rs 50 to Rs 100.

Legacy advertisements and existing public-private partnerships will not face a ban under the new policy if they clear dues and renew permissions. LED hoardings currently displaying commercials under self-advertisement permissions can be converted to commercial hoardings within three months. Officials describe this move as 'Akrama Sakrama', a regularisation for previously non-compliant displays.

The Congress-led government has revised the advertisement policy barely four months after lifting a seven-year ban on commercial hoardings in the city.

The move comes as the city continues to grapple with visual clutter and concerns about unregulated advertising.

The revised policy relaxes nearly all earlier conditions, including reducing advertising fees, increasing the area permitted for advertisements, and extending the deadlines for bill payments. These changes, aimed at attracting more advertisers, are likely to further clutter the city's urban landscape and have drawn flak from civic groups.

The draft, 'Greater Bengaluru Area (Advertisement) Rules, 2025', issued by the Urban Development Department on November 13, allows 30 days for objections and suggestions from affected persons, residents, and other stakeholders. The policy empowers the Greater Bengaluru Authority and city corporations to award advertisement rights to private companies for most roads and junctions through open auction. Officials estimate the new rules could generate about Rs 500 crore in annual revenue for the city, which will be used for civic improvements.

Relaxations

The revised policy increases advertisement space by 200 sqft for every 200 metres of road of certain widths, meaning more and larger hoardings could soon appear across the city. For example, an 18- to 24-metre-wide road can now have as much as 1,000 sqft of advertisement space every 200 metres, a significant jump from the previous limits.

The minimum distance between advertising boards has been reduced to 50 metres, down from 175 metres.

In the July notification, hoardings were restricted to private premises only. Now, city corporations may permit them on footpaths and other public spaces as well, raising concerns about pedestrian safety and aesthetics.

These changes will double the density of advertisement boards on roads.

Earlier, companies had to pay five months' fees when winning advertisement rights. Now, they can pay within six months, making it harder for corporations to recover dues.

Cab driver arrested at KIA for brandishing weapon

BENGALURU, DHNS: A man was arrested at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru for allegedly carrying a sickle and attempting to attack two men.

Police identified the suspect as Sohail Ahmed, in his 40s, who works as a cab driver at the airport.

Investigation revealed that around 1.30 am on November 16, Ahmed was allegedly assaulted by taxi drivers Jagdish JR and Renu Kumar, along with Gangadhar Angadi, over a personal dispute.

Later, around 11.59 pm, Ahmed allegedly returned with a sickle and tried to attack them near the Arrival Lane of Terminal 1.

Ahmed was quickly overpowered by beat police personnel from the airport station and on-duty CISF officials.

He was taken to the airport police station, booked, and an FIR was registered. A probe is underway, a police officer told *DH*.

Yellow Line service disrupted as passengers block train over late start

BENGALURU, DHNS: Services on Namma Metro's Yellow Line were delayed on Monday morning after a group of passengers blocked the first train's departure at the RV Road station, demanding an earlier start to operations.

The first train departed at 6.35 am instead of the scheduled 6 am, delaying all following trains. To stabilise the services, one train was short-looped at Silk Board, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) said.

Stating that such disruptions attract imprisonment, fines or both under the Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002, the BMRCL said a police complaint had been filed for further action.

It acknowledged the late start of train services, noting that all five Yellow Line trainsets are operated during the peak hours.

The start time was advanced from 6.30 am to 6 am, and peak-hour frequency improved from 19 minutes to 15 minutes from November 1 following the induction of the fifth trainset. Services will improve further once more trainsets are introduced in the coming months, it added.

After leopard scare, non-AC safari resumes in Bannerghatta

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) on Monday resumed its non-air-conditioned bus safari, days after suspending the service when a woman visitor was injured by a leopard.

The non-AC safari buses now sport welded, no-gap mesh windows for safety. PHOTO: BBP

In a statement, the BBP said all non-AC safari buses have now been fitted with welded, gap-free mesh windows for enhanced safety. Drivers have also been trained on the dos and don'ts while driving inside the leopard safari zone to ensure higher safety standards. "All safari buses will continue to undergo thorough safety checks and regular maintenance," the park added.

The non-AC safari remains the more affordable option, priced at Rs 370 per adult on weekdays and Rs 420 on weekends and holidays, compared with Rs 690 and Rs 740, respectively, for the AC safari.

On November 13, a visitor, Vahita Banu, suffered minor injuries when a leopard attempting to climb onto the bus accidentally clawed her. The BBP had suspended non-AC services following the incident.

Metro facilitates organ transport; fifth since August

BENGALURU, DHNS

Security stayed with the six-member medical team, creating a cordon inside the coach to transport the organ safely. PHOTO: BMRCL

Namma Metro facilitated the transport of a human heart from Aster RV Hospital, JP Nagar, to Narayana Health Hospital, Bommasandra, for transplant on Monday evening.

The end-to-end distance between the two hospitals is approximately 20 kilometres, and the journey took about 50 minutes.

A six-member medical team arrived at the Ragigudda metro station with the organ container at 7.26 pm. After swift security checks, it reached the platform three minutes later and boarded a train to Bommasandra at 7.32 pm.

The 18-km metro train journey, including security checks, took 37 minutes.

After reaching Bommasandra, the BMRCL deployed an assistant security officer and the station controller to guide the team to the exit.

The organ was subsequently transferred to a waiting ambulance, which reached Narayana Health Hospital at 8.12 pm.

The BMRCL charged only the regular passenger fare.

This was the fifth human organ transportation supported by Namma Metro. A liver was transported in August, a heart in September, and a pair of lungs and a heart in October.

BMTC bus service from Majestic to Kannalli

BENGALURU, DHNS: BMTC has introduced a non-AC bus route on Monday:

238-UK: Majestic to Kannalli via Magadi Road 1st Cross, Vijayanagar, Moodalapalya, Nagarabhavi Circle, Muddaianapalya and Chikkakodigehalli. One bus will be deployed on this route, making seven daily trips.

Free metro for summit attendees

BENGALURU, DHNS: Transit-technology company Tummoc said it would provide complimentary Namma Metro tickets to delegates attending the Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2025, which begins on Tuesday.

Tummoc, a full-stack Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) platform, is the BTS' official mobility partner.

Through a direct integration between the BTS registration system and the Tummoc app, registered attendees can authenticate their credentials and generate QR-based metro tickets to and from the Madavara station, situated next to the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), the event venue.

Tummoc will also exhibit at BTS 2025, showcasing its innovations in multimodal journey planning, digital ticketing and transit data solutions.

PLASTIC-FREE PUSH

Basavanagudi comes alive as five-day Kadlekai Parishe begins

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

A festive atmosphere marks the start of the five-day Kadlekai Parishe in Basavanagudi.

Groundnut sellers from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu arrived in large numbers to display their best harvests as the fair began on Monday.

Minister for Transport and Muzrai Ramalinga Reddy, after inaugurating the Parishe, said, "This year, we are expecting more footfall. The entire Basavanagudi area will be lit up, including NR Colony, DVG Road and Ramakrishna Ashrama Road."

He said the flower decoration at the Sri Doddaganesha Temple was on a larger scale for the first time. The fair is free for vendors and will go plastic-free this year, the minister added.

BMS College, Youth for Seva, Hasirudala and other non-profit organisations are supporting the initiative.

A volunteer said, "We are collecting plastic bags from everyone and giving them a cloth bag in return for Rs 2."

Artist Guru displays a large groundnut painting for visitors to sign. Groundnut-themed postcards are another attraction this year. DH PHOTO/ AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR

At the bustling Kadlekai Parishe in Basavanagudi, visitors sift through mounds of peanuts. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH HG

Lakshmi Rao, visiting from California, said, "Kadlekai Parishe in Basavanagudi ushers in a sense of nostalgia. I cannot wait to buy groundnuts for my family."

Prema, a resident who has attended the fair for 45 years, said, "The Parishe basically house-arrests us because of the traffic block and clogged roads, but we still love this time of the year. The Parishe and the temple give us a sense of belonging."

Vendors were excited to return and looked forward to brisk business.

Ravi Raj, a groundnut seller, said, "We have invested over Rs 2 lakh and brought groundnuts from different states. We are happy with the arrangements."

Over 100 traffic police officers are working in three shifts to manage diversions on Ramakrishna Ashrama Road, Narayanaswamy Road, Seetharamaiah Road and 50ft Hanumanthanagar Road.

Additional facilities

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has deployed two ambulances, two doctors and a staff nurse for health emergencies. Drinking water points are available for vendors and visitors.

Bengaluru City Police has assigned 865 law and order personnel to ensure safety. "Women and children's safety are our top priority. The area has been divided into zones and officers, allotted to each zone, will make sure there are no mishaps," said an officer.

Parking arrangements

Parking is available at National College Ground, APS College Ground, Sai Ranga Ground and Kohinoor Ground.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Children's Vachana mela: Inauguration: Shivasiddheshwara Swamiji, Siddhaiah Swamiji, Guests: ST Somashekar, KV Nagarajamurthy, Gangabike Mallikarjun, Chairman: Mahesh Bellada; Vachana Jyoti Balaga, Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 9.30 am.

Music conference: Performance: MR Satyanarayana and Tirumale Srinivas, Vocals: Abhirama Bhat and team, Pattabhirama Pandit and team; Bangalore Gayana Samaj, KR Road; 10 am onwards

'Santavani' and 'Gurbani' Lecture: Chiranjiv Singh, 'Gaudiya Sampradaya'; Madhu Pandit Das, 'Varkari Sampradaya'; Abhaya G Tilak, 'Ramananda Sampradaya'; Tulsidas Parauha; Church Heritage Group Singing: St John the Evangelist; Church Music: Archdiocese, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Khincha Auditorium, Racecourse Road; 10 am onwards.

Award of 'Vidyashankar Award', 'Vidyashankar Puraskara': Veerabhadra Channamalla Desikendra Swamiji, Nalluru Prasad RK, DV Paramashivamurthy; Award recipients: Sangamesa Savadattimath, Jayalalitha; Dr S Vidya Shankar Cultural Foundation, Nayana Hall, Kannada Bhavan, JC Road; 4.30 pm.

Sir CV Raman Science Endowment Lecture: 'Artificial Intelligence for Today'? DM Suresh, Byramangala Ramegowda; B.M. Shri Pratisthan, NR Colony; 5 pm.

Karnataka Rajyotsava: Chinnappa Rajappa Patil, Sundarashree, Kannada Sahitya Koota; Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Kalakshetra, Jalahalli; 5.30 pm.

CULTURAL

'Billahabba' Yakshagana performance: Sirikala Mela; Narasimhaswamy Udyan, Katriguppe; 6 pm.

'Sampattige Saval' drama performance: Nisarga Sangeet Vidyalaya, Ranga Artisan Sangha, Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 4 pm.

RELIGIOUS

'Kartika Masa Mahatme' religious discourse: Prasannachar Tantrasara, Tirumala Tirupati Temples Hindu Dharma Prachar Parishat; Raghavendra Swamy Math, Sudhindra Baroda; 6 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.0°C
Minimum	17.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	75%
Sunset (Nov 18)	5:50 pm
Sunrise (Nov 19)	6:19 am
Moonrise	3:48 am
Moonset	3:46 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Man dies after delivery agent assaults him

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 55-year-old man was fatally assaulted during a drunken brawl over a minor issue in Chikkajala.

The victim, Narayanaswamy, was a daily wage worker. Police said Narayanaswamy quarrelled with his friend Muni Venkatappa outside a bar after drinking on November 11.

In the altercation, Narayanaswamy allegedly fractured Venkatappa's hand. Shortly after, Venkatappa's son Ajay confronted Narayanaswamy, demanding he take his father for treatment. When Narayanaswamy did not respond, Ajay assaulted him and fled.

Bystanders took Narayanaswamy to a nearby hospital, where he died on Sunday.

Chikkajala police arrested Ajay, 26, an online food delivery agent, soon after Narayanaswamy's death and remanded him to judicial custody.

15 job aspirants duped of Rs 61 lakh with fake forest dept offers

Victims from K'taka Civil Service Academy in Mysuru

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Fifteen job aspirants from the Karnataka Civil Service (KCS) Academy in Mysuru lost Rs 61 lakh after two men promised them jobs in the Forest Department and issued fake appointment letters.

Malleswaram police have launched a manhunt for the accused and are analysing CCTV footage provided by the victims.

An investigation officer said that Shivanand Nagaragatti, an employee of the Karnataka Civil Service Academy, befriended the accused, identified as Umesh Chimmalagi and Shivakumar Hosahalli, in 2023.

He later introduced the candidates — Suhas, Venugopal, Ambarish, Madhu, Parashuram, Yeshaswini, Mamatharani, Shivaraj, Umarani, Ningaraju, Shantha, Rajashri, Kantha Naik, Mallikarjun and Rajeshwari — to the duo, who assured them of 'C' and 'D' group posts in the Karnataka Forest Department.

In May 2025, the accused reportedly met the aspirants at a mall in Malleswaram and handed over forged documents to win their confidence. They collected Rs 61 lakh, promising to deliver appointment letters soon.

When the letters did not arrive, the aspirants questioned the duo, who began evading them. The victims then checked with the department and found no such vacancies existed.

Role under probe

Preliminary investigation suggested that Nagaragatti acted as a mediator and allegedly helped lure candidates into paying money.

Police said they have obtained CCTV footage to verify his role. He has been asked to submit additional documents for scrutiny, but has not turned up. Legal action will follow against all the accused once verification is complete.

When *DH* contacted Nagaragatti, he refused to comment or share details of the victims.

City resident cheated of Rs 1.15 lakh by man posing as BBMP official

BENGALURU, DHNS: An unidentified man posing as a BBMP official cheated a city resident out of Rs 1.15 lakh by promising a taxi under a government scheme.

The 37-year-old victim, Sandeep K, a Sheshadripuram resident, said he was contacted on WhatsApp on October 18 by someone calling himself Puneeth Gowda, a revenue inspector in the BBMP Welfare Department.

The FIR stated that Gowda claimed taxis were being distributed to help the poor under the government's 'Sarathi' scheme.

"He told me a taxi had been sanctioned, but the allotment was pending because the beneficiary hadn't paid the fees. He said I would get the taxi if I paid a registration fee of Rs 25,000 immediately," Sandeep said in the FIR.

Gowda sent BBMP forms to appear legitimate. Sandeep was told to pay additional fees for various charges. In total, he transferred Rs 1.15 lakh by scanning a QR code sent by Gowda. After receiving the money, Gowda cut off all contact.

Central cybercrime police registered a case on November 15 and launched an investigation.

Woman found murdered at home in Hongasandra

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 35-year-old woman was found murdered in her rented home in Hongasandra, under the Bommanahalli police jurisdiction, on Sunday night.

The victim, Pramoda from Sirsi in Uttara Kannada district, worked at a garment factory.

Police said Pramoda was separated from her husband Suresh, a businessman. This was her second marriage. The couple had a young daughter. Suresh was previously married to Pramoda's younger sister.

Police said Pramoda's throat was slit with a sharp weapon. The house was undisturbed, and nothing was missing. The murder likely occurred around noon, but was discovered in the evening when Pramoda's brother, unable to reach her by phone, forced open the door and found her in a pool of blood. He alerted the police.

Preliminary investigation revealed Pramoda was in a live-in relationship with Ramesh, who also works at a garment factory. Police have questioned him, but are yet to determine the motive or make any arrests.

Woman, father held for killing her 65-year-old husband over property dispute

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 65-year-old man was allegedly murdered by his wife and father-in-law over a property dispute in Andrahalli, under the Byadarahalli police station limits, on Sunday.

The victim, Venkatesh, residing in Manjunath Layout, worked as a daily wage labourer.

Police said Venkatesh separated from his first wife 10 years ago and married Parvathi six years later.

Recently, Parvathi pressured Venkatesh to transfer his house to her or pay her Rs 6 lakh. Venkatesh agreed to give only Rs 2.5 lakh, sparking frequent arguments.

On Sunday, around 9 pm, another argument escalated and Venkatesh allegedly pushed Parvathi out of the house. She called her father, Rangaswamy, who arrived at the residence. Together, they confronted Venkatesh and allegedly pushed him from an elevated spot. Despite a head injury, they continued to assault him, resulting in his death.

Neighbours who witnessed the incident alerted the police. Parvathi and Rangaswamy were arrested by the Byadarahalli police and remanded to judicial custody.

Man detained after causing ruckus at Mehkri Circle

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sadashivanagar police detained a man on Monday after he caused a ruckus near Mehkri Circle, bringing traffic to a standstill.

The man, traveling to the airport with his parents, suddenly got out of their cab in traffic, climbed onto the vehicle, and behaved unruly, police said.

A traffic policeman who tried to intervene was allegedly manhandled. Hoysala patrol officers arrived and detained the man. Police said a case will be registered based on the cab driver's complaint.

His parents told the police he is mentally unwell, an officer said.

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CCF says remaining 7 blackbucks may be infected too

BELAGAVI, DHNS

Chief conservator of forests (CCF) Manjunath Chavan said disinfectants had been sprayed in the enclosures of the blackbucks and surrounding ones to ensure that the bacterial infection does not spread. Caretakers are sanitising themselves while moving from one enclosure to another to ensure that the contamination is contained.

Chavan told reporters at the zoo that as per the opinion of the experts who had come from Bengaluru to conduct the post mortem of the black bucks, the animals had died due to suspected bacterial infection.

The remaining blackbucks too were being provided treatment as per their guidance.

"Seven blackbucks are alive and active. We suspect that they are also infected. Experts are arriving again to check them," he said. The medical officer and assistant were veterinary doctors working with the zoo for the last three years and had also attended different workshops, Chavan said.

MANJUNATH CHAVAN
Chief conservator of forests

"Blackbucks are sensitive animals and cannot be trapped for vaccination. Hence, we give them medication through food. All herbivorous animals are given same food and none of them suffered any problem barring the blackbucks.

"The death of blackbucks in such huge numbers has taken place in the state for the first time and we have come across one such incident at Vadodara in Gujarat. Test reports of visceral samples will help take precautions," Chavan said.

"Blackbucks are sensitive animals and cannot be trapped for vaccination. Hence, we give them medication through food. All herbivorous animals are given same food and none of them suffered any problem barring the blackbucks," the CCF said.

Blackbuck deaths: Negligence by officials, doctors suspected

Reports of probe, visceral tests awaited to ascertain cause

BELAGAVI, DHNS

Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK) chairman K Rangaswamy said on Monday that prima facie negligence of staff and medical doctors had come to the fore in the death of 31 blackbucks at the mini zoo here.

Blackbucks are an endangered species as per schedule-1 of the Wildlife Protection Act.

"We are awaiting the inquiry report and the reports of the visceral tests. Action will be taken if lapses on the part of the staff come to fore," he said.

On Monday, Rangaswamy visited the zoo and inspected the enclosure where the antelopes had been kept.

He told reporters that endangered species like blackbucks had been kept in the zoo to conserve the species by increasing their numbers. Their death in such big numbers was not acceptable.

"Officials are saying that the blackbucks died due to suspected bacterial infection. But we are awaiting the report of the visceral sample tests being conducted at the wild animals diseases diagnostic lab at Bannerghatta in Bengaluru".

"The medical team of the zoo has to monitor the health of animals on a regular basis. But that does not seem to have happened. ZAK member secretary Sunil Panwar too visited the zoo on Sunday and will submit a report. Based on the different reports, we will take up the issue with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre for action against those responsible," the chairman said.

Rangaswamy said he held a meeting with district incharge Minister Satish Jarkiholi and was asked by the minister to submit a report on the deaths of the antelopes.

Zoo Authority of Karnataka chairman K Rangaswamy and other officials inspect the Kittur Rani Channamma mini zoo near Belagavi on Monday. DH PHOTO/EKANATH AGASIMANI

One more blackbuck dies; toll touches 31

The death toll of black bucks at the mini zoo has risen to 31, with another succumbing due to suspected bacterial infection early on Monday.

Among the 38 black bucks at the zoo, 8 had died on Thursday and 20 on Saturday last.

Assistant conservator of forests and zoo deputy director Nagesh Balehosur informed that the 29th black buck died on Saturday night and 30th on Sunday evening. Another black buck which was injured died on Monday morning, but post mortem and visceral test will reveal if it was due to bacterial infection or leg injury, which it had sustained.

Kali Tiger Reserve: NTCA tells forest dept to act against illegal resorts

BENGALURU, DHNS: The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has told Karnataka wildlife authorities to take action against the illegal resorts near the core area of the Kali Tiger Reserve.

The authority's letter to the chief wildlife warden comes in the wake of a grievance raised by activist Giridhar Kulkarni in two complaints since March 2024. "A majority of these resorts homestays, hotels have come up at Chavarli, Phansoli and Virnoli which are situated within one km from the boundary of the core/critical tiger habitat of the Kali Tiger Reserve and are within the limits of the Haliyal Territorial division," Kulkarni's complaint said. A resort in Chavarli was situated about 100 metres from the core area boundary.

The complaint stated that homestays and hotels have come up within the enclosure of Castlerock Wildlife Range which is notified as Dandeli sanctuary and questioned the conversion of lands for commercial purpose. It sought action against those conducting business without necessary clearances from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and other authorities.

He said the tourism activities were taking place in violation of directions from the Supreme Court and High Court of Karnataka.

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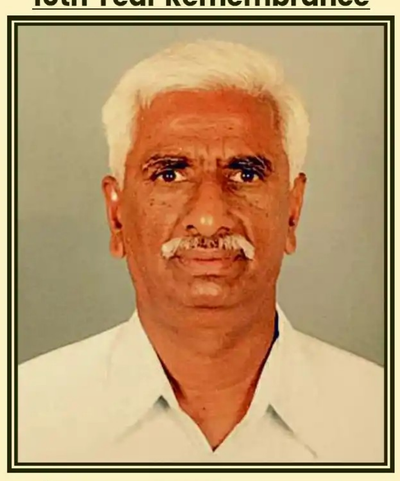

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KSCPCR asks School Edu Dept to submit report on closure of schools

BENGALURU, DHNS: Amid rising outcry over the Congress government's proposal to merge state-run schools that have a low enrolment with the Karnataka Public Schools (KPS), the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) has asked the School Education Department to submit a report on the issue in three days.

Having registered a suo motu complaint, KSCPCR cited media reports on the probable closure of schools in its letter to the Commissioner of School Education Department. "There have been reports of the department greenlighting merger of schools in Channapatna in Bengaluru South district with the upgraded KPS institutions. There is speculation about the possible closure of 7,000 government schools. KSCPCR is concerned about the potential closure of schools, since it could have an adverse impact on the future of children from economically weaker sections," reads the letter.

Meanwhile, members of the All-India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) held a demonstration in Bengaluru to protest the government's move to close schools under the garb of merging them with KPS.

AIDSO's Karnataka secretary Ajay Kamath claimed that schools where the enrolment numbers are relatively high – 110 – are also facing the prospect of closure. "According to the government order, 800 institutions have been identified as 'magnet' schools. This means that schools within a five-kilometre radius where enrolment is less than 50 will be merged with the magnet schools," Kamath said.

The AIDSO functionary was, however, quick to point out that he was not against the establishment of KPS in every Gram Panchayat. "But this could lead to closure of many government schools, effectively leaving only 5,900 state-run institutions – one for each GP," Kamath added.

IN VIBRANT HUES

The Nandi statue atop Chamundi Hill changed hues from red to yellow and to white as the seers and devotees poured vermillion, milk, sandal and turmeric on it as part of the Mahabhisheka, organised by Bettada Balaga Charitable Trust, in Mysuru on Monday. DH PHOTO/ANUP RAGH T

GO on public places: HC refuses to confine interim order to petitioner

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka high court on Monday rejected the request placed by the state government to confine the interim order against the October-18 government order (GO) to the petitioner.

The GO, issued a day before the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) was planning to take out route marches in the state, restricts conglomeration of more than 10 persons in public places.

On October 28, a single bench stayed the operation of the GO in a petition filed by the Punashchetana Seva Samsthe. The state government's appeal challenging the interim order was dismissed by a division bench.

On Monday, Advocate General Shashikiran Shetty, appearing for the government, requested the court to confine the interim order insofar as the petitioner is concerned.

However, Justice M Nagaprasanna declined the request.

"Advocate General would now submit that the interim so granted be restricted only to the petitioners. The reasons rendered in the interim order granted by this court which stands now affirmed by the division bench is that the government order flies foul of the Chapter-III of the Constitution of India ie; the fundamental rights as obtained under 19 (1) and (b). In the light of the said circumstances it being in violative of the fundamental rights or Article 13 (2) as any fundamental right can be curtailed only by a law being made and not by a government order. The government order cannot be restricted only to the petitioners and permit it to become operational against others," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

The court directed the matter to be listed on December 15 since the Advocate General sought time of four weeks to file a statement of objections.

The government order, issued by the Home Department, required prior permission for any gathering of more than 10 persons on properties maintained by the state government, including schools, colleges, playgrounds, parks, roads and water bodies. These premises include the ones managed by local authority or department, Boards, corporation, the order said.

It further stated that conglomeration of persons more than 10 in violation of the order would become an offence of unlawful assembly and trespass and such acts could also be penalised under Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita (BNS).

While staying this order, the single bench had observed that the government order, prima facie, takes away the constitutional rights conferred upon citizens under chapter III of the constitution.

Four held on gangrape charges in Koppal

KOPPAL, DHNS: The Yelburga police in the district have arrested four men on the charge of gangraping a woman on the pretext of repaying the loan borrowed from her.

According to the first information report, the arrested are identified as Lakshmana Kenchappa Kareguli, Basavaraj Sakarappa Sipri, Shashikumar Mahadevappa Maski and Bheemappa Mahadevappa Maski. They have been remanded in judicial custody.

According to the complaint lodged by the survivor, Lakshmana had borrowed Rs 5,000 from her. She had called him over the phone regarding repayment and Lakshmana asked her to come to Kushtagi. Accordingly, the woman came there and Lakshmana took her to a barren land in a village between Kushtagi and Yelburga. His three other accomplies accompanied him there where they gangraped her. The survivor called Helpline 112 seeking police help.

Police said that the survivor told she was given a juice which had an intoxicant.

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SEC files PIL in HC seeking state to notify quota for 187 ULBs

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka high court on Monday ordered notice to the state government in a PIL filed by the State Election Commission (SEC) seeking issuance of reservation notification for the 187 urban local bodies (ULB) across the state.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Poonacha posted the matter to December 11.

The commission has stated that the term of 187 ULBs have expired during December - January 2025. Despite repeated letters/reminders since January 2025, the state government, so far, has not come out with the reservation notification enabling the election process to proceed with. The notifications will have to be issued in respect of 47 city municipal councils, 91 town municipal councils and 49 town panchayats, the petition said.

The petition cited that under section 13(1)(d) of the Karnataka Municipalities Act, failure to issue necessary reservation notification results in violation of the mandate contained under Article 243- U of the Constitution of India. The division bench has directed the state government file response by the next date of hearing.

Chief minister's wife Parvathi hospitalised

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife BM Parvathi was hospitalised on Monday and is currently undergoing treatment in the ICU.

A host of Congress leaders visited Apollo Hospitals in Seshadripuram to inquire about her condition.

"I came here to check on her. Nobody is being allowed in. I spoke to (Siddaramaiah's son) Yathindra.

He said his mother is doing fine and there's no problem. I hope she gets well soon," said Congress MLA from Arsikere, KM Shivalinge Gowda.

Parvathi, who married Siddaramaiah in 1977, is known for keeping a low profile.

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I, MALATHI DINAMANI, residing at Purva Atria, A3-305, RMV 2nd Stage, Dollars Colony, Bangalore 560094 have changed my name from MALATHI DINAMANI to B.K.MALATHI, vide affidavit dated 15/11/2025, sworn before B.R.Shashikala, Notary, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, PREETHI VINOD BABU W/o Vinod Babu, residing at No.1078, Sreebhavan Bharathiyar Road, R S Palya, Bengaluru - 560033, have changed my name to PREETHI VINOD, vide affidavit dated 15-11-2025 sworn before Notary K. Venkateshan, Bengaluru. Henceforth, I shall be called PREETHI VINOD only.

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Revisit procedure, criteria for declaration of KSET results, HC tells UGC

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka high court has directed University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Karnataka State Eligibility Test Centre (KSET) to revisit the "procedure and criteria for declaration of KSET results."

The court has asked the authorities to ensure that the rule of reservation as mandated in the Karnataka Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes (Reservation and Appointment etc.) Act, 1990, is followed while declaring the results and certifying the candidates as eligible, subject-wise and category-wise.

Justice R Devdas issued this direction while declaring the petitioner A Gopala, an assistant professor at the Government Law College, Chamarajnagar, as successful and to issue a certificate of SET to him. In 2021, the petitioner had filed an application to take up the test for the post of Assistant Professor in the subject-Law.

The petitioner contended that while the procedure prescribed subject-wise and category-wise distribution, the formula in the 2021 notification did not adhere to such selection. He further stated that the state government, through statute, prescribed reservations to the Scheduled Castes at 15% and Scheduled Tribes at 3%, and that under the Act of 1990 reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes must be provided in every cadre, department-wise. There was a cut-off percentage for the ST category in the subject of Law, he submitted.

Justice Devdas noted that, under the UGC formula, candidates in the ST category had not received representation in many subjects such as Visual Arts, Music, Performance Arts, Linguistics, Philosophy, Anthropology, Archaeology, Home Science, Environmental Science, Public Administration, Urdu, Folk Literature, Sanskrit, Law and Criminology etc. The court rejected the contention of UGC and KSET that the overall results comply with the requirement of reservation.

"The reservation of roster as per the Act of 1990 has to be applied subject-wise. It is nobody's case that there are single slots available in the subject-Law or many such other subjects, thereby preventing reservation," Justice Devdas said.

The court further said, "In the considered opinion of this court, the first two steps prescribed in the 'procedure and criteria for declaration of KSET results', in the impugned notification do follow the requirement of identification of slots and for providing for reservation. However, the third step gives a go by to the requirement of law in the matter of reservation, as prescribed in the Act of 1990. The third step should therefore be replaced by following the roster point prescribed by the State of Karnataka in its subsequent notifications. Following the roster, would be a simple solution for providing reservation, in the matter of certifying candidates, subject-wise."

Ministerial aspirants meet CM amid Cabinet rejig buzz

BENGALURU, DHNS: Several Congress lawmakers, many of them ministerial aspirants, met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah before he left for New Delhi on Monday.

Siddaramaiah is pushing for a reshuffle of his Cabinet, raising hopes for lawmakers who are eyeing a place in the administration.

Former minister K N Rajanna, CM's legal advisor A S Ponnanna, Karnataka State Policy and Commission Chairperson B R Patil, Government Chief Whip Ashok Pattan, MLAs Vijayanand Kashappanavar and Pradeep Eshwar met Siddaramaiah.

"I'm a ministerial aspirant. I've asked that I be considered for the services I've rendered for the party," Kashappanavar, who is also chairperson of the Karnataka Veerashaiva Lingayat Development Corporation Ltd, told reporters.

He said he had requested Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, party general secretaries K C Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala for a Cabinet berth.

There is pressure on Siddaramaiah to reinstate Rajanna as a minister after he was sacked in August reportedly for speaking out of turn. Also, a section of Kodava leaders want Ponnanna in the Cabinet. Patil and Pattan are also ministerial aspirants.

Kalaburagi, Bidar growers demand Rs 3,300 per tonne of sugarcane

KALABURAGI/BIDAR, DHNS: Taking cue from their counterparts from Belagavi and Bagalkot, sugarcane growers of Bidar and Kalaburagi took to the streets demanding Rs 3,300 per tonne of sugarcane.

In Kalaburagi, the farmers staged a protest in front of the deputy commissioner's office. The protesters blocked the road and shouted slogans against the government.

"The state government is meting out step-motherly treatment to the farmers of Kalaburagi district over sugarcane pricing. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has held a meeting in Bengaluru and fixed the price based on the recovery rate. Later, a uniform price of Rs 3,300 per tonne was announced in Belagavi. The factories in Mudhol of Bagalkot district are also providing uniform prices irrespective of the recovery rate. But, the district administration of Kalaburagi and the sugar mills are doing grave injustice to the farmers," agitators alleged.

In Bidar, efforts by District Minister Eshwar Khandre to convince the farmers to end their agitation failed. Members of Samyukta Kisan Morcha told the minister that they would relent only after the government announces a price of Rs 3,200 per tonne of cane.

Will commission consider public employment while revising BCs' list?

Experts: Doing so will exclude prominent communities

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes (KSCBC) is under pressure to consider representation in public employment as a criterion while revising the list of backward classes.

According to section 11 of the KSCBC Act, the government has to revise the backward classes' list once in 10 years to ensure that classes which have "ceased to be" backward classes are excluded and "new" backward classes are included.

The primary intention of the social and educational survey is to revise the BCs' list.

The commission will study the primary data collected during the survey and the secondary data on the representation of different caste groups in government employment and formulate criteria to determine backwardness.

Havanur criteria

Fixing such criteria has always been a point of contention. The debate goes back to the 1970s, when the L G Havanur commission prepared two separate lists for backwardness.

The first was based on social and educational backwardness — Article 15(4). This list comprised 15 'backward communities', 128 'backward castes' and 62 'backward tribes'.

Communities that were not socially and educationally backward were deemed 'not backward' and not even considered for the second list.

Those communities categorised as 'backward' in first list were then subjected to a second round of scrutiny.

Here, the population percentage of each caste/community was subtracted from the representation percentage of each caste/community in government jobs (Groups A, B & C).

If the result was positive, the community was considered "over-represented," and removed from the list.

When the commission considered the Agasa community, its population in 1972 was 3.55 lakh (1.18% of the state's total).

The percentage of government employees was 0.7. Then, 0.7-1.18=-0.48. Thus, the Agasa community was considered underrepresented and retained as backward class.

The Havanur commission removed 20 communities from the BCs' list. This includes Rajputs, Arasus (Urs) and Ganigas.

The final list had 9 'backward communities,' 115 'backward' castes and 61 'backward tribes'.

An expert that *DH* spoke to confirmed that this method was scientific.

Multiple sources associated with previous commissions told *DH* that considering employment indicators could potentially exclude powerful communities from the BCs' list.

Criticism

Critics have slammed the H Kantharaj and Jayaprakash Hegde-led backward class commissions, saying they considered backwardness only under Article 15(4) and not Article 16(4).

A source associated with the Hegde commission argued that they had considered backwardness under Article 16(4), though he acknowledged that certain "practical" decisions had to be made.

The source explained that it was difficult to remove castes from the backward classes list based on representation in public employment since some sub-castes had received more opportunities than others.

"If the commission had removed sub-castes based on public employment representation, it would've been criticised for dividing castes".

Meeting

A few weeks ago, former backward class commission chairpersons including Ravivarma Kumar and C S Dwarakanath, met incumbent chairman of the backward classes' commission Madhusudan R Naik and its members.

DH has reliably learnt that the experts are said to have suggested that the aspect of over- or under-representation in public employment was crucial while preparing the BCs' list.

Bill allowing online betting in racing events likely in Belagavi session

RASHMI BELUR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government has prepared a bill that will allow online wagering or betting on racing events, which is expected to be introduced in the upcoming winter session of the legislature.

The government said the bill is being introduced "keeping with the current trend of expanding exposure to racing events" and online betting prevalent in race clubs of other Indian states, including the neighbouring states.

"It is considered necessary to amend the Karnataka Race Courses Licensing Act 1952 (Karnataka Act 7 of 1952). Online betting is prevailing in the Race Clubs of other states, including neighbouring states, Hyderabad Race Club in Telangana, Madras Race Club in Tamil Nadu, Royal Western Indian Turf Club Ltd in Maharashtra and Royal Calcutta Turf Club in West Bengal," the government claimed.

Considering the amendments proposed by the Finance Department to the Karnataka Race Courses Licensing Act 1952 (Karnataka Act 7 of 1952) to make provision to grant permission for online wagering or betting, the state Department of Parliamentary Affairs has verified the proposed amendments and approved the bill to be placed in the upcoming winter session of the legislature.

This bill is one among the 31 Bills that may come up during the winter session starting from December 8 in Belagavi.

According to the Finance Department sources, horse racing is not like other online games and it is basically considered a skilled game; hence, it has proposed amendments to allow online wagering for racing events.

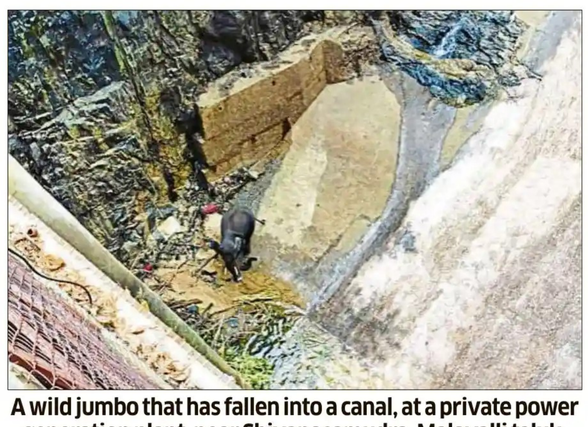
"Betting in horse racing is mainly skill and knowledge-based based as observed by the Supreme Court. However, it should be done through a licenced platform," sources said. They said this is one of the revenue generation ideas mooted by the Finance Department, as allowing online wagering will attract/encourage more interested people to take part in the betting of racing events.

Also, three bills --- Karnataka Mis-Information Regulation Bill 2025(Revised Bill), Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention and Control) Bill 2025 and Karnataka Rohith Vemula (Prevention of Exclusion or Injustice) (Right to Education and Dignity) Bill 2025 --- have been submitted for the law minister to discuss with the home minister.

Another important Bill listed is the Karnataka Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill 2025.

This bill pertains to the observation that the unconstitutional practices, such as boycotts, imposition of various punishments by extrajudicial bodies, such as caste or community panchayats etc, are still in practice in various communities in the state.

"Existing laws are found to be inadequate in dealing with such practices. The government, therefore, considers it expedient to enact legislation for the said purpose," the government said.



A wild jumbo that has fallen into a canal, at a private power generation plant, near Shivanasamudra, Malavalli taluk, Mandya district. DH PHOTO

Jumbo falls into a canal; rescue operations on

MALAVALLI (MANDYA DISTRICT), DHNS

A wild jumbo reportedly fell into a canal of the Pioneer Junco Limited Power Generation Plant, near Shivanasamudra, in Malavalli taluk, and is struggling to come out for the last three days.

The elephant had got down to drink water through a 20-ft-wide canal gate that supplies water to the private power generation plant, on Saturday night. However, due to the heavy flow of water, the elephant was not able to get out of the canal and has been wandering there.

The employees of the plant, who noticed the movements of the wild jumbo on Sunday, waited thinking that the jumbo would leave. As the jumbo did not come up till evening, they informed the Forest department officials.

The Forest department launched the operation and tried various methods to drive the jumbo out of the canal.

As the jumbo did not come out of the gate till Monday evening, it is said that they have discussed with the Deputy Commissioner to reduce the discharge of water from the KRS dam.

Observing the jumbo has been without food since two days, the personnel also brought sugarcane and threw it into the canal. Efforts are also on to dart the jumbo and lift it using a crane. Two cranes have been brought to the place, it is said.

Deputy Conservator of Forests D Raghu said that he has been camping at the place from Sunday and the rescue operation was on to save the wild jumbo.

Didn't discuss politics with Kharge, says Shivakumar

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Monday said he did not discuss politics when he met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in Delhi the previous night.

"I always meet my leaders when I visit Delhi. But I did not meet them for political discussions. I discussed dates for the foundation stone laying for the new party offices. I had not bothered him all these days as he was busy with Bihar elections," Shivakumar said after landing in Bengaluru.

Siddaramaiah calls on Modi, seeks nod for projects, funds

Approval for Mekedatu, Mahadayi in wish list

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Monday and raised a number of the state's issues pending with the Centre, including early release of funds under the National Disaster Response Fund.

The CM, accompanied by Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, submitted a number of memorandums to Modi.

Siddaramaiah later told reporters that the PM responded positively to the state's pleas and promised to do the needful at the earliest.

The CM said that the state sought Rs 2,136 crore from the Centre under the NDRF, to take up relief works following damages caused due to floods and rains in many districts.

He said in the current fiscal (2025-26), no money was released by the Centre and that Karnataka released Rs 1,500 from its own kitty so that relief measures were not delayed.

Siddaramaiah brought to the PM's notice accumulated dues of Rs 13,000 crore from the Centre for implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission to provide piped water connection to every household.

Urging the PM to find permanent solutions to the woes of sugarcane farmers, the CM urged the immediate revision of the 'frozen' minimum support price for sugarcane, assured offtake of ethanol from Karnataka's sugar mills and a central notification empowering states to fix sugarcane harvesting and transport costs.

Siddaramaiah requested Modi to grant early clearances from the Central Water Commission for the Mekedatu and Mahadayi drinking water projects.

He urged the PM to direct the Jal Shakti ministry for early notification of the final award of the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal and release central assistance of Rs 5,300 crore announced in the 2023-24 union budget for the Upper Bhadra project.

The CM requested Modi to take steps for the setting up of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Raichur district.

Congress leaders preoccupied with a game of musical chairs: Ashoka

BENGALURU, DHNS: Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Assembly R Ashoka on Monday took a swipe at leaders in the Congress for ignoring several pressing issues in the state, and being obsessed with their game of 'musical chairs'.

"If the Chief Minister will not be changed, why is everyone in the Congress meeting party president Mallikarjun Kharge? The problem of sugarcane farmers has not been solved; human-animal conflict is on the rise, while the state is yet to compensate those who suffered losses owing to excess rain. But Congress leaders are busy playing a game of musical chairs for the CM's post. If the Cabinet is expanded, Deputy CM D K Shivakumar may be sidelined," Ashoka told journalists in Bengaluru.

The LoP urged Minister for Forests, Environment and Ecology Eshwar Khandre to take note of the death of 31 blackbucks at the Belagavi Zoo.

Ashoka opined that issues concerning North Karnataka must be discussed at length in the Winter Session of the state legislature scheduled to commence from December 8 in Belagavi. Ashoka said that he would speak to Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy about the sugarcane farmers' plight, and issues concerning law and order in the state.

Rejecting the Congress government's claims of the Centre delaying the disbursal of funds, Ashoka said, "I met farmers in Chamarajanagar and spoke to them about compensation for the crop they had lost, besides other issues. CM Siddaramaiah gives long speeches but fails to disburse compensation. He does not attend the GST committee meeting where he can offer suggestions, but comes here and makes accusations."

Hubballi man feared dead in Saudi bus inferno

HUBBALLI, DHNS

Abdul Ghani Shirahatti

A 52-year-old man from Hubballi city was among 45 Indian Umrah pilgrims killed in the Saudi Arabia bus inferno on Monday.

Abdul Ghani Shirahatti, a resident of Ganeshpet in the city was feared dead after the Madina-bound bus crashed into a fuel tanker and caught fire. The family members of Abdul Ghani confirmed the news and said he was working as a driver in a hotel in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates. Along with Hyderabad friends, he was heading to Madina from Mecca. He had made a phone call to the family members in Hubballi at 1 am on Sunday and informed them about his trip and shared video clips too.

The deceased was supposed to fly back home after the Umrah.

Deputy Commissioner Divya Prabhu GRJ said the district administration has not received any official communication on Abdul Ghani's death. "We are in touch with the family members and ministry of external affairs," she added.

Hubballi-Dharwad East MLA Prasad Abbayya, Hubballi-Dharwad Police Commissioner N Shashi Kumar and several leaders visited the family members.

Abbayya told *DH* that he spoke to Waqf and Minority Welfare Minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan, and they have made arrangements for three family members to travel to Saudi Arabia to take part in the funeral rites. "Three members from the family have left for Bengaluru on Monday night, from where they will fly to Saudi Arabia. The minister has made Visa and other necessary arrangements for them," he said.

KK region sees early winter with below normal temperatures

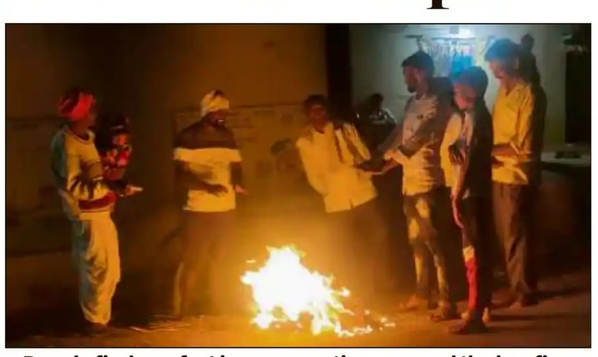
KALABURAGI, DHNS

The Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre has forecast colder days in the state, especially north interior Karnataka, from November 18 to 21.

A press release from the agency said minimum temperatures are likely to be 4-6 degrees Celsius below normal, mainly in districts of north interior Karnataka.

This may result in cold to severe cold wave conditions in these areas. November 21 onwards, minimum temperatures are expected to return to normal over north Interior Karnataka, the release added.

People in most parts of Kalyana Karnataka (KK), including Kalaburagi, Bidar, Raichur and Koppal districts, have been compelled to stay indoors due to the biting cold, as temperatures dip at night. The region has witnessed minimum temperature up to 14º Celsius.



People find comfort in congregations around the bonfire, like those at Kalabhavi thanda of Chincholi taluk in Kalaburagi district, as temperatures head south in Kalyana Karnataka region.

People have brought out their sweaters, shawls, winter caps and woollen clothes to protect themselves from the cold. Village residents have opted for bonfires to warm themselves up.

They are thronging push-cart tea vendors early morning near the central bus stand, railway station and other places in the city. The region is known for hot summers and witnesses cold winters too.

Officials at the Bidar agriculture science centre said there will be further reduction in temperature by up to 10º Celsius next month.

The district health & family welfare department has advised people suffering from asthma and joint pains to take proper precautions to protect themselves with warm clothes and maintain body heat.

They have advised citizens, especially the elderly and children, to take precautions.

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Publishers: DECCAN HERALD, PRAJAVANI, SUDHA & MAYURA

We are a leading newspaper and magazine publishing group in Karnataka. We invite applications for the following position in our organisation.

Jr. EXECUTIVE - CIRCULATION

Work Location : Across Karnataka
Experience : 4+ years of experience in sales and possess excellent interpersonal skills.
Skills : Sales or Circulation of newspapers.
Qualification : Minimum PUC/12th
Job Purpose :

- Achieve circulation target, promote and monitor publication in the assigned region.
- Formulate and implement various market strategies.
- Distributes and explains circulation instructions and changes to distributors and dealers.
- Managing escalations.
- Early morning reporting on field is mandatory.
- Two-wheeler is mandatory.

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Publishers: DECCAN HERALD, PRAJAVANI, SUDHA & MAYURA

We are a leading newspaper and magazine publishing group in Karnataka. We invite applications for the following position in our organisation.

MANAGER - CIRCULATION

Work Location : Across Karnataka
No. Of Position : 4
Experience : 8+ years of experience in sales and possess excellent interpersonal skills.
Skills : Sales or Circulation of newspapers.
Qualification : Any Graduate
Job Purpose :

- Achieve circulation target, promote and monitor publication in the assigned region.
- Formulate and implement various market strategies.
- Distributes and explains circulation instructions and changes to distributors and dealers and investigates and adjusts dealer complaints.
- Early morning reporting on field is mandatory.
- Two-wheeler is mandatory.

Manager-Talent Acquisition
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75, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bengaluru – 560 001
E-mail: neesha.srinivas@printersmysore.co.in

One-year course for aspiring people's representatives: Khader

BENGALURU, DHNS: Legislative Assembly Speaker U T Khader announced on Monday that a one-year training course would be launched for aspiring people's representatives.

"We want to design a one-year training course (six-month theory and six-month practical). There are medical colleges for aspiring doctors, people who want to become engineers go to engineering colleges, while aspiring journalists go to journalism colleges. But for a good representative, there is no college or school..."

Khader was speaking during a programme organised by the Karnataka Media Academy on the occasion of National Press Day.

The Speaker also announced that during the upcoming session of the legislature and the one after that, they were planning to provide an opportunity for 50 law and journalism students to visit the session (not for merely one day) and use the library of the state legislature.

CM meets Kharge amid talk...

CM meets, from Page 1

Kharge told the CM that the Central leaders will be busy with the Parliament session from December 1 to 19. The CM also told Kharge that the state Assembly session will be held from December 8 to 19 at Belagavi. Sources told *DH* that if a Cabinet rejig is effected, it will be early next year and not before that.

However, both Kharge and Siddaramaiah were not available for comment about their meeting. Shivakumar is learnt to have opposed the Cabinet rejig and reminded the party top leader about the change of leadership. Shivakumar, who met Kharge on Sunday evening, told the top leader that if the party allows Siddaramaiah to rejig his Cabinet, then he would continue as the CM. However, Kharge told Shivakumar that it would be dealt with by senior leader Rahul Gandhi, sources said.

Separately, Shivakumar's brother and former MP D K Suresh also held a closed-door meeting with the CM for half an hour at Karnataka Bhavan on Monday.

Interestingly, Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar along with other state party leaders had lunch together at Karnataka Bhavan. Before going to the meeting with Kharge, the CM told reporters that it will be a courtesy call. "During the discussion, if the issue of Cabinet expansion comes up, we will deliberate on it."

Dozens of Congress leaders, including Basavaraj Rayareddi, Appaji C S Nadagouda, T B Jayachandra, M R Seetharam and Ashok Pattan, came to the national capital to lobby for ministerial berths.

AI-ready PC 'KEO': State govt's fix for digital divide?

KEO, from Page 1

Addressing a press conference here, Kharge said, "When it comes to online learning, academic learning or computing, there are not enough computers or affordable hardware in urban or rural areas.

Studies have found that over 60% of Indian students reported being unable to access online learning opportunities due to the lack of a device. So the idea is to take computing to the grassroots. We want to make computing more affordable."

To begin with, 500 devices will be sold for B2C (business-to-consumer).

Keonics chairman Sharath Kumar Bache Gowda said that by adopting an open-source RISC-V stack, KEO strengthens the government's commitment to accessible, locally-adaptable and homegrown computing solutions. KEO is designed, developed and assembled in Karnataka. "We have built this with the belief that every student, engineer, creator, disruptor, innovator, and every household will have access to powerful, intelligent computing, not at the top of the pyramid, but at the grassroots. KEO breaks the cost and technology barrier," Kharge said.

At the Bengaluru Tech Summit beginning on Tuesday, three new policies - IT, Startup and Spacetech - are expected to be announced.

Drunk driving: Cases hit 5-yr high in B'luru, thanks to new strategy

Drunk driving, From Page 1

Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh told *DH* that the surge reflects the intensity of their operations.

"The tweaks in strategy involve 'composite naka bandi' checks, incorporating two to three days of surprise checks and area domination," he told *DH*.

The new penalties are stringent, raising the fine for a first-time offence from the previous Rs 1,000-1,500 to a steep Rs 10,000 and/or six months in prison. Repeat offenders now face a fine of Rs 15,000 and/or two years in prison.

Change in strategy

This new "composite checking" has personnel from the Bengaluru Traffic Police and the law and order wings of the Bengaluru City Police. This type of 'naka bandi' (check points) includes late-night checks and deployment of more than 100 patrol vehicles across the city.

"Doubling the number of 'naka bandi' compels officers to detect a broader range of violations, including stolen vehicles, drug cases, fake number plates, and other offences, in addition to drunk driving," added the top cop.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy told *DH* that the aim is to enhance safety. "To prevent accidents at night, we are conducting joint night patrols plus random checks to maintain a uniform presence in crime prone areas," he said.

DCP Traffic East Sahil Bagla noted the introduction of increased daily vigilance three to four months ago, which was a change from the previous method of focusing only on Thursday to Sunday nights.

"In order to control the increasing accidents, we now assign anything between three to five personnel on a rotational basis during the weekdays as well," Bagla added.

Ousted Bangladesh PM Hasina sentenced to death

Hasina, from Page 1

In her reaction, Hasina said the judgment has been made by a "rigged tribunal established and presided over by an unelected government with no democratic mandate".

Hasina said she was not afraid to face her "accusers" in a proper tribunal where the evidence can be weighed and tested fairly. "That is why I have repeatedly challenged the interim government to bring these charges before the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague."

The verdict comes months before parliamentary elections in Bangladesh. Hasina's Awami League party has been barred from contesting the elections scheduled to be held in February.

Hasina was handed the death penalty for ordering the use of deadly force against unarmed protesters, making inflammatory statements and authorising operations that led to the killing of several students in Dhaka and surrounding areas.

A UN rights office report had earlier estimated that up to 1,400 people were killed during the month-long agitation, known as the July Uprising. There were some incidents of violence after the court delivered the verdict.

Security agencies used batons and fired tear gas to disperse protesters who tried to demolish the house of Hasina's father and Bangladesh's founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Dhaka.

45 pilgrims from Hyderabad die in Saudi road accident

Saudi, from Page 1

The pilgrims had completed their visit to Makkah and were traveling to Ziyarath when the incident occurred.

The Telangana government convened an urgent Cabinet meeting and announced an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh each to the next of kin of the victims on Monday afternoon.

The Cabinet also decided to send a government team led by Minority Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin to Saudi Arabia. An AIMIM MLA and a senior official from the minority welfare department will also be part of the team. Two family members of each victim will be taken to Saudi Arabia, where the last rites of the deceased will be performed.

The newly sworn-in Minority Welfare Minister Azharuddin said the bodies were charred beyond recognition and DNA tests may be required for identification. He added that the Indian Consul General, Jeddah, informed him that the victims would be buried in Saudi Arabia, as is customary for pilgrims who die there.

A 24/7 control room has been set up by the Indian Consulate and a similar facility has been established at Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi to assist the affected families.

India, US close to inking 1st tranche of trade deal

Trade deal, from Page 1

So far, six rounds of negotiations have been held, the last being from October 15-17, for which Agrawal, along with other senior officials, visited Washington.

He said the US government shutdown has impacted the pace of the negotiations.

"We are engaged with the US on the BTA. It has two parts. One part of negotiations will take time. The other part is a package which can address reciprocal tariffs. We are working on both aspects," he said. "The package that can address reciprocal tariffs is more or less near closure and we should get it soon," the official said.

Meanwhile, Indian PSU oil companies have signed first-ever deal to purchase liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from the US.

Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) have signed a one-year structured contract to import around 2.2 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of LPG from the US Gulf Coast for the contract year 2026, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri said in a statement.

This represents close to 10% of India's annual LPG imports and marks the first such structured US LPG contract for the Indian market. The minister described the decision as a historic development, noting that one of the world's largest and fastest growing LPG markets has now opened up to the United States.

Analysts said the deal would help reduce trade gap and address the concern of the US in the ongoing negotiations for the proposed bilateral trade agreement.

SHRI BHIMASHANKAR SAHAKARI SAKKARE KARKHANE NIYAMIT MARAGUR.
TQ: CHADACHAN, DIST: VIJAYAPUR. 586204, KARNATAKA STATE, Mob No:+917353818544
Email Id: sales.bsskn@gmail.com
SBSSKN/SALES/2025-26/ DATE: 17-11-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER
FOR SALE OF 'A' GRADE MOLASSES and Ash

Factory invites the tender for sale of **5000 MT'S "A" grade Molasses and Ash of 2025-26 season production.**

Those who interested may submit their quotation along with EMD of Rs,30 Lakhs for Molasses and Rs, 50,000/- for ash in form of DD Drawn on any nationalised Bank, In favour of **Shri Bhimashankar Sahakari Sakkare Karakhane Niyamit., Maragur, Tq: Indi, Dist: Vijayapur, Karnataka State.**

Date of opening of tender and date of negotiation will be informed separately. The terms and conditions of tender can be obtained from the factory office.

Factory reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the tenders at any time, without assigning any reasons therefore.

Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR Sd/- CHAIRMAN

CSIR-CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
Research Centre, Allalasandra, GKVK Post, Bengaluru - 560 065. Ph: 080-28460563, 28565652

SKILL DEVELOPMENT - CUM - TRAINING PROGRAMME ON "AROMATIC PLANTS & AROMATIC OILS"

CSIR-CIMAP Research Centre, Bengaluru is organizing a 3-day Skill Development - cum - Training Programme on 'Improved production technologies of Aromatic Plants & Aromatic Oils' under Aroma Mission Phase III - HCP 0007 during 10 - 12 December, 2025. Registration fee: Rs. 3500/-. Contact: 080-28460563 / 6360940523 / 9886180510 / 8901422294 / 9945586503 or visit www.cimap.res.in

SCIENTIST IN-CHARGE

Directorate of Medical Education
BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002. Phone: 080-22870060 Fax: 080-22875798
E-mail: dmekarnataka@yahoo.com

No: ME/Tender/08/2025-26 Date: 17-11-2025

NOTICE

Re-Tender is invited through the GeM Portal **(Bid No: GEM/2025/B/6881324)** for the **Purchase of MRI 3.00 Tesla Equipment required to Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology.**

Interested tenderers shall view and submit tenders in the GeM Portal (Government e-Marketplace). All other details can be viewed in GeM Portal.

DIPR/CP/3851/Adverto/2025-26 Sd/- Director Directorate of Medical Education, Bengaluru.

Government of Karnataka
MINOR IRRIGATION AND GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Land Line : 08156-295427Fax : 08156-295427 E-Mail-eemidcbpura@gmail.com
No : EE/MID/Cbpur/TA/T.P/ 1913 / 2025-26, Date :-17/11/2025

Postponement of Tender Notification

This office Tender Notification No 13/2025-26 Date : 06/11/2025 for which 01 work Invited under 4702 Plan New tank construction has been postponed due to some Technical Reasons. Remaining Conditions will be same as it is.

1) Last date of uploading tender documents up to Dt:21/11/2025 04:30 PM.
2) Opening of technical bid Dt:24/11/2025 @ 11:00 AM. (If Possible)

For more Information contact this office Ph no : 08156-295427 and KPP Portal help desk Ph No : +91-9240214000 and 91-9240214001.

Executive Engineer
Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Chikkaballapura.

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation
Kempegowda Bus Station Division, Bengaluru

No.: KST/KBS/COM/731/2025-26 Date: 15 /11/2025

E- TENDER NOTIFICATION NO:10/2025-26

Applications are invited from interested parties through Negotiation from 18.11.2025 to 09.12.2025 for the selection of licensee for a period of 10 years on "As is where is Basis" for the entire premises including the ground floor, first floor and parking area of Kimco building which can be used for office space, Bank, Exhibition, Children's entertainment space, Hotel or Heritage hotel, Kindergarten (School), etc limited to one business located at Deepanjalinagara, Mysuru Road bus station, pertaining to Kempegowda Bus Station Division, Bengaluru. The Negotiation documents can be downloaded from the KSRTC website at ksrtc.karnataka.gov.in. For further information, please contact the Divisional Office, KSRTC, Kempegowda Bus Station Division, Bangalore-560009, during office hours. Contact phone numbers are 7760990550, 7760990557.

Sd/- Senior Divisional Controller K B S Division, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3857/AKAR/2025-26

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only Through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered agencies for the following works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (South) 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & Time for submission of tender	Date and time for opening of tender
1	South West-1	BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/3967/2025-26 Dated: 14.11.2025	1 ₹ 25,88,238/- / ₹ 51,800/-	26.11.2025 upto 4:00 pm	27.11.2025 after 4:05 pm
2			2 ₹ 30,95,792/- / ₹ 62,000/-		
3			3 ₹ 31,50,006/- / ₹ 63,000/-		
4		BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/3967/2025-26 Dated: 14.11.2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	4 ₹ 21,41,832/- / ₹ 25,000/-		
5		BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/3967/2025-26 Dated: 14.11.2025	5 ₹ 23,57,775/- / ₹ 50,000/-		
6		BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/3967/2025-26 Dated: 14.11.2025 (Reserved for ST Category)	6 ₹ 19,95,310/- / ₹ 25,000/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South West-1)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/MIA/3852/2025-26

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಧಾರವಾಡ. ದೂ.: 0836-2747749, ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: eepwddha@gmail.com

ಕ್ರಸಂ: ಕಾನಿಇಂಧಾ/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ.-2/2025-26/3884 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17-11-2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

I.F.T – KW – 1,2,3 &4
ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ

ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2000 ರನ್ವಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-1,2,3, & 4 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 3054-03-337-0-05-200 ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, 3054-04-337-0-10-200 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, 3054-04-105-0-01-200** MDR Bridge, **3054-04-105-0-01-200 SH Bridge, 2216-07-053-0-01-200, 2059-80-053-4-00-200, 5054-04-337-0-01-154 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ, 4059-80-051-0-29-386 ಇಲಾಖಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ, 8443 & 2401.** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 2.00 ಲಕ್ಷದಿಂದ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 200.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.

ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ: PWD/2025-26/SE0537	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT28781
PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT23598	PWD/2025-26/SE0580
PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT28325	PWD/2025-26/SE0476
PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT29000	PWD/2025-26/SE0584
PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT28249	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT29235
PWD/2025-26/BR/WORK_INDENT29339	PWD/2025-26/BR/WORK_INDENT28757
PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT28752	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT29074
PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT29284	PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT29288
PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT28250	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT28357
PWD/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT9798/CALL-3	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT28462
PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT28600	PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT29069
PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT29143	PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT29271
PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT29278	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT28488
ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ:	
PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT28311	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT28929
PWD/2025-26/SE0506	PWD/2025-26/SE0505
PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT29256	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT28248
ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ:	
PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT28473	PWD/2025-26/BG/WORK_INDENT29469
PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT29427	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT28464
CAT-II(A):	
PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT29011	PWD/2025-26/BR/WORK_INDENT29342
PWD/2025-26/BR/WORK_INDENT29221	PWD/2025-26/BG/WORK_INDENT29468
PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT28465	PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT29242
CAT-1	
PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT28471	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT28316

Calander of Events: 1) ಪ್ರಿ ಬಿಡ್ ಮಿಟಿಂಗ್/ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27-11-2025** ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ **12:30** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ **2)** ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28-11-2025** ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ **04:00** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ **3)** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29-11-2025** ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ **04:30** ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ **3)** ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01-12-2025** ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ **04:30** ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ

ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ: PWD/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT17345/CALL-3
PWD/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT10679/Call-3 PWD/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT17354/Call-5 PWD/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT17349/Call-7

Calander of Events: 1) ಪ್ರಿ ಬಿಡ್ ಮಿಟಿಂಗ್/ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ **ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11-12-2025** ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ **12:30** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ **2)** ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12-12-2025** ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ **04:00** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ **3)** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15-12-2025** ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ **04:30** ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ **3)** ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16-12-2025** ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ **04:30** ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ

ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಂತರಜಾಲ ವಿಳಾಸ **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಲೋಕೊಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಚೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಧಾರವಾಡ/878/ಮುನಿಪಾಲ್/2025-26

KARNATAKA SILK INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
3rd & 4th Floors, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru – 560 001
Ph: 080- 25586550/25586402, Email: info@ksicsilk.com

No: KSIC/PR/ITEMS/2025-26 Dated: 11.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

Tenders are invited through KPP Portal from Manufacturers/Dealers for the below detailed items:

Sl. No.	Particulars	EMD (In Rs.)	Last Date and Time for uploading the Tender along with EMD	Technical Bids Opening Date and Time
1	Supply of 18,720 Kgs KOF or Equivalent Brand Sona Swad Gold Rice	25,000	08.12.2025 by 03.00 PM	09.12.2025 @03.30 PM
	Supply of 4,500 Kgs KCOGF or Equivalent Brand Refined Sun Flower Safal Premium Oil	15,000		
2	Supply & Installation of 28 Nos Desktops	44,000	08.12.2025 by 03.00 PM	09.12.2025 @03.30 PM
	Supply & Installation of 5 Nos of Scanners	3,500		
	Supply & Installation of 1 Nos of Printer	260		
3	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 3 Nos Retrofitting of Emission Control Devices to 3 Nos 250 KVA Capacity DG Set	54,000	18.12.2025 by 03.00 PM	19.12.2025 @03.30 PM
4	Providing 37 Nos Wooden Platform for new 256 Hooks Capacity E-Jacquard Looms	22,000	18.12.2025 by 03.00 PM	19.12.2025 @03.30 PM

Tender Documents, details of the Notification, schedule terms & conditions can be downloaded from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be had from the office of the Undersigned during working hours or KPP Portal - helpdesk-080-46010000 and 080-68948777.

DIPR/CP/JA/3782/2025-26 Sd/- GENERAL MANAGER(Proc)

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CGM(Tech)/DGM(PROC &APCC)/EE-Proc/AEE-6/2025-26/4254-4270 Date: 17.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites Bids on electronic mode for the following works in a **Combined Package** against following **Enquiry Number: KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2979** for **Work-A** : Replacement of 2x8MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers by 2x20MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers at 66/11kV **K. Byrapura** sub-station, in Channarayapatna Taluk, Hassan District.

Work-B : Replacement of 2x8MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers by 2x20MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers at 66/11kV **Didaga** sub-station, in Channarayapatna Taluk, Hassan District.

Work-C : Replacement of 1x8MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers by 1x20MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers at 66/11kV **Bagur** sub-station, in Channarayapatna Taluk, Hassan District.

Work-D : Providing Additional 1x20MVA Power Transformer at 66/11kV sub-station, **Gendehalli** in Belur Taluk, Hassan District.

On **Partial Turnkey Basis,** including Supply of all Materials/Equipments and Erection (including dismantling & Civil Works) of all Materials/Equipments, Testing and Commissioning.

The bids will be received through KPP Portal only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **19.11.2025 @ 15:00hrs.** Last date & time for receipt of Bids is **20.12.2025 @ 15:00hrs. Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

Sd/- Chief General Manager(Tech), Corporate Office, KPTCL, 2nd Floor, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru - 560 009.

BACKLASH: Show-cause notice deepens row in Kerala; TN staff cite 'humongous' burden

Electoral roll drive hits roadblock as officers revolt

Kerala BLOs speak out after colleague's stress-linked death

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

With a booth-level officer (BLO) in Kerala dying by suicide allegedly due to work stress from the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, many such agents have spoken out about the pressure and hardships they face.

Their duties include visiting households multiple times to meet voters, addressing concerns over the SIR, assisting illiterate people in filling forms, and coping with constant pressure from higher-ups to speed up the process.

On Monday, BLOs gathered outside the Chief Electoral Office in Thiruvananthapuram to protest the death of Aneesh George, a BLO from Payyanur in Kannur.

"I am taking my husband along to help. Otherwise, I won't be able to finish on time. We have to walk door to door, which is exhausting," said a woman BLO. Many women rely on relatives or friends to accompany them during household visits. Each BLO is tasked with enrolling between 900 and 1,400 voters.

Kerala government employees under the banner of the Secretariat Action Council stage a protest outside the Election Commission office over the alleged stress-induced suicide of a BLO involved in SIR, in Thiruvananthapuram, on Monday. PTI

Show-cause notice

Amid the row over the BLO's death, a show-cause notice from the Kozhikode sub-collector to another BLO for lagging in enrollment has surfaced. An audio clip of a senior official warning a BLO of disciplinary action for delays has also emerged.

BLOs who joined the protest said they face constant pressure from higher-ups to speed up the process. "We leave home early and return late. Since the SIR exercise began, we haven't even been able to eat on time. Many of us risk health issues from the mental and physical stress," said a BLO from Idukki district.

George's death has sparked a political row, with the Congress alleging he was threatened by local CPM activists after seeking help from a Congress booth-level agent to identify households and voters. The CPM countered, accusing the Congress of trying to justify the special intensive revision exercise.

Man found dead near Kolkata; family links it to 'SIR anxiety'

KOLKATA, PTI: A 47-year-old man from the city's South Dum Dum area was found hanging from a tree near his home on Monday morning, with his family claiming he had been distressed for days over issues linked to the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, police said.

The deceased was identified as Baidyanath Hazra, a resident of RN Guha Road of ward 9 of South Dum Dum Municipality, they said.

"Hazra was a driver and resided with his wife and two children. The family claimed that he had been worried because his name had not appeared in the 2002 electoral rolls, and he had no old documents since his parents had died during his childhood," the officer of Barrackpore police commissionerate said.

The family members also claimed that Hazra had been anxious, despite his name being on the current electoral rolls, even after neighbours had tried to reassure him.

TN revenue dept staff to boycott duties

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

STATEWIDE PROTEST

- Over 50,000 of 90,000 personnel expected to join protest
- BLOs tasked with distributing 1,200 forms, collecting them in 2 days
- Officials say six crore forms cannot be processed in a month
- Revenue staff demand more time, training, proper remuneration
- Political parties, including DMK, oppose rushed exercise

From Tuesday, workers and officers of the Revenue Department in Tamil Nadu have decided to boycott duties related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, citing "severe workload" and "mental stress". The move by the Federation of Revenue Employees' Association (FERA) comes at a time when political parties in the state, including the ruling DMK, have opposed the exercise being conducted within such a short span.

The boycott is expected to disrupt the SIR process, with associations claiming that over 50,000 of the 90,000 personnel involved will join the protest. The personnel feel it is extremely difficult for them to complete the "humongous" exercise within the stipulated time, without adequate resources or additional honorarium.

Protests were also held across Tamil Nadu demanding that the Chief Electoral Officer and the Election Commission of India intervene immediately to create a more conducive environment.

MT Murugaian, state coordinator of FERA, said a booth-level officer (BLO) is expected to distribute about 1,200 enumeration forms and collect them within two days, even though the deadline for submitting the forms is December 4. Many BLOs, particularly noon meal workers, struggle to complete the task on time as they are digitally challenged and have not been trained for the exercise.

'Taxing work'

"SIR is an exercise that cannot be completed in a month. It is a lot of work. For instance, a BLO has to scan a form twice — before and after filling it — and key in all the details in a mobile app of the EC. Many find the work taxing and time-consuming," Murugaian told *DH*.

He also said BLOs are being forced to collect the enumeration forms from voters within two days of distributing them and digitise the records.

"We don't think distributing and collecting forms from over six crore people is possible in a month's time," Murugaian added.

Revenue department officials — including village assistants, village administrative officers, surveyors and inspectors — are expected to participate in the boycott, demanding adequate time and proper training for all BLOs and supervisors at every level.

FERA said BLOs are being harassed through review meetings, often forced to attend sessions late into the night.

Azam Khan, son get 7-year jail term for forged PAN cards

LUCKNOW, DHNS: Senior Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Azam Khan and his son Abdullah Azam were on Monday sentenced to seven years' imprisonment by the MP/MLA Court in Uttar Pradesh's Rampur district in a case relating to obtaining PAN cards using forged documents.

Azam Khan

Both Azam Khan and Abdullah Azam were taken into custody immediately after the court pronounced its verdict. Azam Khan, a former MP, was recently released from jail, and is out on bail.

BJP MLA Akash Saxena had lodged a police complaint in 2019 alleging that Abdullah Azam had obtained two PAN cards with different dates of birth using fake documents. One card allegedly bore the date of birth as January 1, 1993, while the other showed December 30, 1990.

Abdullah Azam submitted the second card with his nomination papers when he contested the 2017 Assembly elections from the Swar Tanda seat, which he won.

Saxena further alleged that Abdullah used the alternate PAN card to meet the age requirement to contest the polls. It was also claimed that Azam Khan was involved in the conspiracy.

The police registered an FIR against the father–son duo under various sections of the IPC. The case was being heard at the MP/MLA Court in Rampur, which is Azam Khan's hometown.

Kuki groups vow to pursue demand for UT; Meiteis challenge claims

GUWAHATI, DHNS: Days after the Union Ministry of Home Affairs told Kuki insurgent groups in conflict-torn Manipur that the current government policy did not support the creation of a new Union Territory, as demanded by them, Kuki organisations resolved to pursue the goal with "persistent, sustained, and unwavering political effort".

This was one of the resolutions taken following a conclave organised in Guwahati in Assam, according to a joint statement issued by Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and United People's Front (UPF) — two forums of Kuki insurgent groups currently under a Suspension of Operations agreement with the Central government — on Monday.

Hours later, the Co-ordination Committee on Manipur Unity (COCOMI), an apex body of organisations, mainly Meiteis, submitted a memorandum addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi challenging the UPF and the KNO's recent claim that Kukis were never a part of the Manipur administration before its annexation in 1949.

The COCOMI also opposed the Kukis' demand for a "separate administration".

Munambam Waqf land stir leader gets Cong ticket for local polls

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: The leader of the Munambam resident action council, opposing the Kerala Waqf Board's assertion over their property, is expected to contest the local body election as a candidate for the Congress-led UDF.

Joseph Benny, convenor of the council, will contest from the Munambam division in the Vypin Block Panchayat.

Benny, once a Congress worker, joined the CPM later but disassociated from it after the Munambam land stir started.

Benny told *DH* that a formal announcement of the UDF regarding his candidature is yet to come.

Meanwhile, the stir by 610 affected families entered the 400th day on Sunday.

Even though the Kerala High Court recently observed that the Waqf claim on their land was not legal, the state government is yet to restore the revenue rights to the landowners.

EC orders 'Special Revision' in Assam

Final rolls to be published on February 10

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

HOW IT DIFFERS FROM SIR

- Unlike SIR, no need for voters to fill enumeration forms
- No matching with previous SIR roll
- BLOs to carry pre-filled register during house-to-house verification
- BLOs to record changes, if any; to record eligible people who are not registered
- Weed out duplicate voters, dead voters and those who have shifted
- To replace blurred, poor-quality and non-human images

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA
Assam Chief Minister

"This will help ensure clean, updated and accurate electoral rolls for all eligible citizens. Assam will extend full cooperation to the @ECISVEEP to complete the revision in a transparent and time-bound manner.

Poll-bound Assam will have a 'Special Revision' of electoral rolls instead of the contentious Special Intensive Revision (SIR), with the Election Commission announcing on Monday that house-to-house verification of voters will begin on Saturday and the final electoral rolls will be published on February 10 next year.

The Assam exercise has notable variations from the SIR: voters will not be required to fill enumeration forms, though Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will conduct house-to-house verification. Details of D-Voters or 'Doubtful Voters' will be carried forward to the draft roll, with deletions on the basis of an order from the Foreigners' Tribunal or a court.

Amid accusations by Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi regarding large numbers of voters listed with house numbers marked as zero and illegible photographs, specific instructions have also been issued to ensure that such houses should be marked as 'NI', while blurred, poor-quality or non-human images must be replaced in the rolls.

Assam was excluded from the list of 12 states and Union Territories, including four poll-bound states and UTs, when the second phase of SIR aimed at cleaning the electoral rolls was announced in October, as the preparation of the National Register of Citizens had not concluded. With elections round the corner, a revision of rolls remains mandatory.

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, while announcing the second phase of SIR, had earlier said, "Under the Citizenship Act, there are separate provisions for citizenship in Assam. Under the supervision of the Supreme Court, the exercise of checking citizenship is about to be completed... Under such circumstances, this would not have applied to Assam."

Qualifying date

In its order on Monday, the EC said January 1 next year will be the qualifying date for the state to carry out the Special Revision. EC officials said the revision stands somewhere between the annual Special Summary Revision and the SIR.

During house-to-house verification, BLOs will be given a pre-filled register containing details of electors for verification. They will make corrections where necessary, collect details of un-enrolled eligible citizens and prospective electors who would be eligible to become voters on January 1 and other qualifying dates.

BLOs will collect forms for additions, deletions and shifting of voters between November 22 and December 20. They will also take steps to remove duplicate entries, names of deceased voters and those who have relocated.

Before the draft roll is published, logical errors must be removed, addresses standardised, and the quality of photographs checked in a time-bound manner.

Telangana Speaker faces SC warning over MLA cases

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday expressed strong displeasure towards Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar over his failure to decide within three months the disqualification plea against 10 BRS MLAs who joined the ruling Congress, saying he was in gross contempt of court and that he had to decide where he had to spend New Year's Eve.

SUPREME COURT

"This should have been concluded... This is the grossest kind of contempt...It is for him to decide where he wants to celebrate the new year

A bench of Chief Justice of India B R Gavai and Justices K Vinod Chandran and N V Anjaria sought a response from him on a contempt plea that claimed he had not decided the disqualification petitions against the BRS MLAs who defected to Congress within the three-month time limit that the apex court set in July.

"This is gross contempt of court," the bench told senior advocate A M Singhvi, who appeared for the Speaker.

The bench said it was for the Speaker to decide whether he wanted to decide the matter or face contempt proceedings, pointing out that the Speaker was supposed to decide the matter by October 31.

Giving the Speaker time till next week, the bench said, "It is for him to decide. We have already held that he doesn't enjoy constitutional immunity when considering the matters under the 10th Schedule. He has to decide where he has to spend his New Year's Eve."

The bench also issued a contempt notice to the Speaker for not complying with its direction to decide the disqualification pleas.

On July 31, while directing the Speaker to decide the petitions within three months, the court also asked him not to allow MLAs facing the disqualification pleas to drag the proceedings, saying he could draw an adverse inference against them if they did so.

No college degree for 40% of new Bihar MLAs; more women in House

NEW DELHI, PTI: Around 12% of the newly elected MLAs in Bihar are women, a marginal increase from the last polls, while around 40% members in the new assembly do not have college degrees, according to a report by think tank PRS Legislative Research.

The report also showed that the number of MLAs aged more than 55 years has increased following the Bihar assembly elections.

An analysis of the results by PRS Legislative Research showed the 243-member assembly will now have 29 women MLAs, which is around 12% of the total strength of the House. The previous assembly had 26 women members.

Of the 29 women elected to the assembly, 13 are aged between 25 and 39 years, and nine between 40 and 54 years. About half of them -- 15 MLAs -- do not have college degrees.

Overall, the average age of the assembly has increased. The percentage of MLAs aged 55 or above increased from 34% in 2015 to 40 per cent in 2020, and to 46 per cent in 2025.

MLAs with PG degrees in the new assembly increased to 28% compared to 23% in 2020. The proportion of those with qualifications up to higher secondary level increased to 40 per cent from 38 per cent in 2020.

Around 32 per cent of the newly elected MLAs are graduates, compared to 40 per cent in the previous assembly.

Around 60% of the elected legislators have listed politics and social work as their profession. Agriculture is the profession of 45% of the new MLAs, 31% have listed business as their profession, while 5% are salaried professionals, the report said.

India, China held 1,100 border talks in a year: Army chief

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Border-guarding troops of India and China had nearly 1,100 interactions in the last one year—three talks daily on average—to iron out ground-level differences, Chief of the Army Staff Gen Upendra Dwivedi said on Monday, noting that situations have been improving since Oct 2024.

Upendra Dwivedi

The enhanced level of interactions, Gen Dwivedi said, helped troops on the ground make headway in resolving local issues as the top leaders from both sides were continuing the dialogue for a resolution of the confrontation-like situation prevailing in areas close to the 3,488-km Line of Actual Control.

"There has been a lot of improvement in our relations since last October, following dialogues between leaders of the two nations. If political directions are clear, it benefits everyone," the Army Chief said at an event on the eve of Chanakya Defence Dialogue, an annual flagship event of the Indian Army.

While initially the talks were limited to the corps commander level, the interactions were extended to the levels of battalion and company commanders to address issues on the ground.

In October 2024, India and China concluded an agreement on patrolling arrangements along the LAC areas in Depsang and Demchok in eastern Ladakh, leading to disengagement.

Following the agreement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Chinese President Xi Jinping twice in the last year. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also met their Chinese counterparts.

On Pakistan, Gen Dwivedi said Operation Sindoor was only a trailer that lasted for 88 hours and not a full movie. "If Pakistan gives us a second chance, we will teach them a lesson on how a responsible nation should behave with its neighbours," he said.

"Even if we get a bearing post letter, we know who to send the response to. India will continue to consider the terrorists and their supporters alike, and it will respond firmly to terrorism," he said in a veiled reference to state-sponsored terrorism emanating from Pakistan without naming the country.

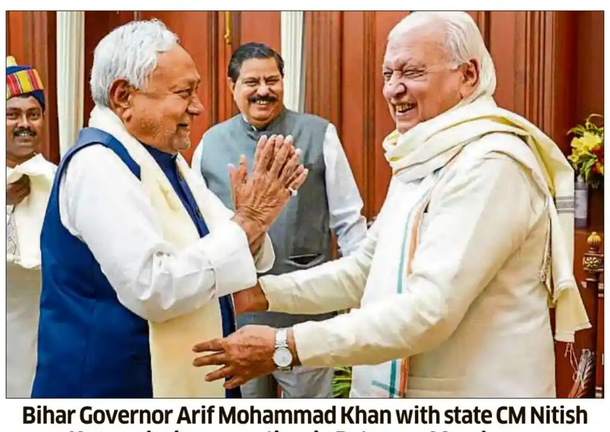
Nitish's oath-taking ceremony on Nov 20

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday chaired a Cabinet meeting and recommended dissolution of the 17th Vidhan Sabha with effect from November 19.

Later, he met Governor Arif Mohammad Khan and briefed him about the Cabinet decision recommending dissolution of the legislative assembly.

The process to constitute the 18th Vidhan Sabha began on Sunday evening with the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Vinod Singh Gunjiyal briefing the Governor about the Bihar election. He also handed over the list of all the 243 newly-elected members to the Governor. The EC also issued a notification related to the end of the model code of conduct.



Bihar Governor Arif Mohammad Khan with state CM Nitish Kumar during a meeting, in Patna, on Monday. PTI

Meanwhile, the new Government, headed by Nitish, will take oath on November 20 at the Gandhi Maidan and will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, several Union Ministers and chief ministers of BJP-ruled states.

The NDA, which stormed to power on November 14, will have 34 ministers in the Nitish Cabinet.

This will include 15 ministers from the BJP, 14 from the JD (U), three from the LJP (R) and one each from the Jitan Ram Manjhi's HAM and Upendra Kushwaha's RLM.

Notably, the JD(U) and the BJP won 85 and 89 seats respectively while the other three allies—the LJP(RV), HAM and the RLM won 19, 5 and 4 seats respectively. As per the formula adopted for ministers from each alliance partner, it has been decided that there will be one minister for every six MLAs.

Tejashwi elected LoP

Meanwhile, the members of the RJD met at residence of Tejashwi Yadav and elected him as Leader of the Opposition.

As per the law, a party should have at least 10% of the MLAs out of total strength of the House before being declared as Leader of the Opposition.

The RJD won 25 seats in the 243-member House.

Hectic parleys underway for Speaker, deputy chief minister posts

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

With consensus among the NDA partners that Nitish Kumar will once again be the chief minister, all eyes are now on the Speaker's post.

BJP leaders said they are keen on sticking to the formula of the last government, where the Speaker's post was given to the BJP.

With former Speaker Nand Kishore not in contention, the names of deputy chief minister Vijay Kumar Sinha, who has served as Speaker in the past, and senior leader Mangal Pandey are doing the rounds.

BJP leaders said the party leadership is holding meetings to deliberate on the names of ministers as well as the Speaker, and a decision will be taken ahead of the swearing-in, which will be held on November 20. The BJP is likely to get 15 ministerial berths, said the leaders.

'Under no compulsion'

"Finding 15 ministers as well as a Speaker from 90 elected leaders is not easy, but the party is under no compulsion after the results," a leader said.

The party will also have at least one deputy chief minister. There are reports that LJP-RV has demanded one deputy chief minister position as well as two to three ministerial posts. Some of the frontrunners for deputy CM posts are Ram Kripal Yadav, Mangal Pandey, Rajnish Kumar and Nitin Nabin.

There is also the likelihood that the leadership opts for fresh faces for the key positions.

Senior names that might not find a ministerial berth will be accommodated in assembly constituencies, said the leader. In the last assembly, BJP also held the Deputy Speaker's post with senior leader Narendra Narayan Yadav.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Privacy law has a fine print of State control

With the Union government notifying the rules of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2025, the law has come into effect, while the questions it has raised remain unanswered. Privacy is central to the times we live in, and breaches impact life across domains. This makes the need for strong data protection clear and indisputable. The provisions of the DPDP Act – widely discussed before and after it was passed by Parliament in 2023 – have attracted much criticism on multiple grounds, including their impact on privacy, freedom of speech and expression, and the right to know. These are fundamental rights, and the law will impact them in ways few other legislations have.

The declared objective of the law is to protect personal data, but the means to achieve this, such as non-negotiable consent, breach notification, and erasure rights, will not come into play immediately because the law will be implemented over 18 months. There is no definite timeline for the implementation of some of its key provisions. Another fallout is its impact on the Right To Information (RTI) Act – under the law, information, which is deemed personal, need not be disclosed, even if there is public interest in it. This provision will be used to deny information under the RTI, further weakening the law. The rules grant unchecked powers to the government to demand personal data from data fiduciaries without consent on undefined grounds, such as national security. This will give the government powers to control data and, with it, the people who own such data. These provisions may lead to surveillance. It is to be noted that data fiduciaries are banned from disclosing such demands from the government.

DPDP Act grants the government sweeping access to personal data and dents press freedom

In democratic countries, exemptions in rules are made for journalists in the collection of and access to data that is of public interest. An earlier draft of the DPDP Act contained such an exemption, but it was later dropped. The result is that journalists will not be able to identify and disclose the names of people who are accused of wrongdoing because that can be construed as violating their privacy. They will also need to obtain permission for writing about people relevant to these cases. Violations of the law's provisions will attract fines of up to Rs 250 crore. The law and the rules in their present form would help the government exercise extensive control over the people – a power that stands in stark contrast to the idea of data protection as an enabler of the citizen.

Congestion calls for a unified mobility plan

Bengaluru's traffic crisis is now producing policy contradictions faster than it is generating solutions. One day, the city's police propose a pay-and-park system within tech parks to discourage the use of private vehicles. The very next day, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) announces multi-level parking complexes across the city – an intervention that, by design, accommodates more private vehicles. Nothing better illustrates how the government is contradicting itself, pushing one measure to curb private vehicles while simultaneously advancing another that enables more of them. Both proposals carry merit in isolation, yet together they reflect a government pulling in opposite directions instead of driving a coherent mobility strategy.

The police, grappling with the daily paralysis along the Outer Ring Road, are right to argue that free office parking has become a perverse incentive. With thousands of single-occupant cars occupying precious road space, introducing a fee could nudge a section of commuters towards shared or public transport. But industry bodies have rightly countered that such a move, without improving BMTC frequency, road quality, and seamless access to tech parks, risks being punitive rather than transformative. The GBA's plan for 66 automated, high-capacity parking complexes addresses a different problem: the scarcity of parking in commercial hubs, with the sites themselves having been identified by the police. With 1,194 roads already declared no-parking zones and rampant violations choking mobility, the GBA argues that automated systems would optimise space and reduce chaos on arterial roads.

Bengaluru needs a public transport-centred strategy, not piecemeal fixes for its parking problem

The problem is not the ideas but the absence of coordination. Bengaluru already has a blueprint: the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP), which envisions shifting the city from private-vehicle dependence to an integrated, public-transport-centred future. Its core pillars are clear: expand and integrate Metro, Suburban Rail, and BMTC; strengthen last-mile connectivity; promote walking and cycling; and disincentivise excessive private vehicle use through measures like congestion pricing. The CMP was meant to be implemented through a single command structure – the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA). But the BMLTA, though enacted in 2023, remains largely on paper. Now, with the newly formed GBA wielding overarching powers, the Authority's future looks even more uncertain. Yes, Bengaluru needs pay-and-park. Yes, it needs parking complexes. But these must be components of a unified mobility strategy, not piecemeal firefights. Implementing isolated measures without aligning them with the CMP is akin to treating a deep wound with a band-aid. Ultimately, Bengaluru cannot tow, fine, or park its way out of congestion. The only sustainable solution is a reliable, high-frequency public transport system supported by seamless first- and last-mile connectivity. Anything else is simply putting the cart before the horse.

CRISIS OF CREDIBILITY

A landslide win and a cloud of distrust

Despite the sweep in Bihar, the BJP and its allies will have to contend with allegations over a friendly umpire

JAGDISH RATTANANI

There was a time in India when, whatever the election results, the Election Commission of India (ECI) was the acknowledged winner of the battle and the chief protector of India's democratic traditions. The ECI was initially tame, then it became a tiger under Chief Election Commissioner T N Seshan and has since kept up its image as a fierce protector and an independent arbiter of the one ingredient that is critical for the democratic success of India – the process of elections. Come election time, and political parties would test boundaries, but the ECI would stand up, ensure that the violations were called out, and increase scrutiny and oversight so that the process was not only fair but also seen to be fair. That is now likely to be seen as the golden age that is no more a part of the Indian electoral process. The loss carries implications that are not fully grasped by an ECI that has allowed itself to be drawn into a vortex of controversies that it needn't have. Today, the end of elections marks the beginning of a new battle over results, a slide that should cause serious concern to the entire political system and to the proud history of a young nation that has successfully run a reasonable and fair election process since independence.

The near-clean sweep by the BJP-led NDA alliance in the Bihar assembly elections is also marred by the infirmities that have crept into the working of the ECI. The results, therefore, send complex signals to the nation. They become a cause of lingering doubt. It is no longer possible for one side to be sworn in for a new term with due acknowledgement by the loser, both bowing to the mandate of the people and their power to decide the political futures of candidates. They rob the system of its integrity, of its finality in the reading and the enforcing of the will of the people, and therefore do injustice not only to the losers but also to the winners and to the political system as a whole. In this reading, the ECI has let all sides down by not keeping itself beyond allegations and suspicions that now cloud its various actions.

In Bihar, too, like has happened in earlier elections in Maharashtra and Haryana, the winning side will have to contend with the allegations that they romped home with an umpire whose role remains hotly contested, placing the fairness of the electoral process under a cloud. Further, the allegations are more than a case of sour grapes and have now become a growing part of recent election campaigns and results, putting Indian democracy at risk from the very structures meant to protect and strengthen it.

On the one hand, the plain numbers from Bihar reiterate the overwhelming dominance of the Narendra Modi-led BJP machinery and its mastery of alliances, messages, and imagery. Apart from its general strengths, a variety of Bihar-specific reasons are also being cited, examples of which are Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's so-called popularity or long service, the Rs 10,000 per woman giveaway to 75 lakh women in the thick of election season, longer-term actions that have reportedly won the hearts of women voters like prohibition, and claims of improved law and order.

This standard ex post facto reading that builds on the lines argued by the incumbents reflects some ground realities, but can it convincingly explain the landslide, which brought 202 of the 243 seats to the NDA, the BJP in the lead with 89 seats, and Nitish Kumar's JD (United) with 85?

The *sushasan* puzzle

The counter argument, equally valid, would ask how a nine-time Chief Minister who has been called *paltu*-Ram for his changing affiliations and criticised for being "hijacked" by the BJP, can lead a victory of these proportions. Even considering the backbone of the BJP's superior strategy and resources in the system, this was an incumbency that has not particularly seen Bihar flourish. The lack of jobs for the youth or lack of investments is the flip side of the coin that buys voter loyalty with gifts and giveaways, even if these will mar long-term governance and fiscal management.

Outmigration for work remains the bane of Bihar and mirrors the lack of opportunities built in the state to provide decent employment for the masses. Seasonal migration is more predominant, with 72.8% of the seasonal migrants seen in the Middle Ganga Plain coming from the state, according to a 2019 study by the Indian Institute of Population Studies, Mumbai. The reasons: poverty, unemployment, landlessness, and lack of food. There is no evidence that historic disadvantages of the state have changed dramatically in recent years.

It is equally fair to note that there was some disarray in the ranks of the Opposition, but also energy seen in the rallies led by the Rashtriya Janata Dal's Tejashwi Yadav, the Chief Ministerial candidate of the RJD-Congress-led Mahagathbandhan alliance. The Vote Adhikaar awareness rallies by the Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, were also noted for the good response received at the grassroots. Gandhi began the 'right to vote' movement in Babu Jagjivan Ram's political home of Sasaram and covered some 20 districts.

The growing crescendo on the issue of the fairness of electoral processes cannot be dismissed easily. An election commission that these days is defended only by the BJP, and otherwise stands discredited, is a deeper loss that cannot be washed away by the victory celebrations of the BJP or its allies. What the winners do not realise is that they may well have won, but they too have been robbed of the prize because when the doubts linger, the victory is but pyrrhic. The angst this causes among people and political parties will likely play out in some very complex and challenging ways in the days ahead.

(The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

A salute to India's frugal genius

We were eco-conscious long before it became a hashtag

ISHAAN PATEL

If "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" were an Olympic sport, the Indian middle class wouldn't just win gold—they'd take home the silver and bronze medals, melt them, and make a new pressure cooker gasket from the metal.

We are experts at efficiency. We run our households with such skill that a Wall Street banker would probably start weeping. These aren't mere 'habits'; they're an art form – a holy teaching of *jugaad* passed down through generations. It is the unwritten rulebook of every Indian family, and these rules cannot be broken.

Nothing truly dies in an Indian kitchen—it simply returns in a new and nobler form. Jam and coffee jars have never seen a recycle bin. Once scrubbed clean, they ascend to the glass-bottle pantheon, reborn as containers for *achaar*, ghee, or lentils in dazzling hues. An empty whisky bottle is too regal for the trash. It either chills as an elite water bottle in the fridge or becomes a zero-cost vase for a thriving money plant. For most of us, a 500ml milk packet is just packaging. To the Indian mother, it's bespoke armour. Once rinsed and dried, it protects a *paratha*/*roti* in a tiffin box from even the faintest hint of humidity. Our tea leaves refuse retirement after breakfast. Instead, they're washed and sprinkled into pots as plant superfood, keeping the money plant in that noble whisky bottle both thriving and happy.

The Indian living room is a gallery with one rule: look, but don't touch. Every home has a TV remote that remains eternally "new", sealed in its original plastic wrap or given a new plastic cling wrap. It's a sacred shield against dust, chutney fingers, and cosmic forces that erase buttons. Behind glass lies a set of gold-rimmed crockery reserved for mythical guests—the Queen of England or that judgemental aunt from Delhi. For the family, the dented and mismatched steel plates will do just fine.

Every home hides treasure troves of "someday". There is a universal law that a Danish butter cookie tin shall never contain cookies. It is a decoy. Open it, and you will find a tangle of buttons, thread, a lone screwdriver, and medicine strips from 2003. Once, every home had a giant plastic bag stuffed with smaller ones. Today, the "Tower of Quick Commerce" reigns—Blinkit and Instamart paper bags are stacked high, destined to line dustbins with quiet dignity.

A branded T-shirt begins as party wear, fades to lounge-wear, and then becomes Holi attire. Its final, noble form is the *pocha*—the humble mopping rag. This isn't an end; it is *moksha*.

These habits aren't about thrift; they're heirlooms of ingenuity, proof that sustainability is embedded in our DNA. We were eco-conscious long before it became a hashtag. So, the next time you see someone attacking a toothpaste tube with a rolling pin to extract its final breath, don't laugh. You are witnessing genius. You are witnessing the soul of the Indian household.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CJI Gavai's stand on reservation is commendable, timely

Apropos 'CJI Gavai backs exclusion of creamy layer in quota to Scheduled Castes' (Nov 17), the CJI's stand on reservation is both commendable and timely. His stance regarding unjustified reservation to all sans economic criteria is bold. His objection to extending reservation to the children of IAS officers is a well-balanced view. His view appears to be the culmination of a long, well-nurtured thought process, consciously brought out towards the end of his professional career. His logic is justiciable, as economic criterion is the parameter for reservation in the case of OBCs, while for SCs and STs, no such restrictions exist. As a result, the children of top bureaucrats and wealthy persons belonging to those categories, who can afford hefty fees for quality education, continue to be bracketed for reservation. Is this not an unconscionable policy?

T V Pandarinath Naidu, Kudige

Focus on development

The 'new' political landscape of Bihar once again highlights how governance often takes a back seat to power negotiations. With Nitish Kumar preparing to resign and return as Bihar's chief minister yet again, the state seems stuck in a cycle of alliances without real policy progress. While the BJP is set to dominate the new Cabinet, what citizens truly need is stability, accountability, and a clear direction for development.

Saraswati Keshri, Bengaluru

Heritage vs pedagogy

This refers to 'Heritage must not replace rigour in mathematics' (Nov 13). Though India's ancient mathematical achievements are a source of national pride, romanticising these contributions in curricula must not come at the cost of logical reasoning, proof, and analytical thinking, which form the backbone of modern mathematics. Mathematics trains students to reason, generalise, and verify systematically. Prioritising anecdotes or historical narratives over rigorous problem-solving risks producing learners who admire heritage but lack critical thinking and proof-construction skills. Such a shift can affect not just mathematics but also fields reliant on analytical rigour — from physics and engineering to computer science and emerging areas like artificial intelligence and data analytics.

K V Chandramouli, Mysuru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Mamata *didi* (West Bengal CM) is plotting to turn Bengal into Bangladesh for votes. They have rolled out the red carpet for Bangladeshi and Rohingyas. The people there are terrified, especially Hindus. The Trinamool Congress will now be ousted from Bengal.

Giriraj Singh, Union Minister

The more you can increase fear of drugs and crime, welfare mothers, immigrants and aliens, the more you control all the people.

Noam Chomsky

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

State must spend smart, not more

Rationalisation of schemes and outcome-based funding can present new pathways to transformative growth

RAJESHWARI U R

Karnataka has long been recognised as one of India's fiscally progressive states. Its tax base is strong, its industrial output vibrant, and its welfare programmes among the most inclusive in the country. Yet, as the state navigates growing demands on its budget from education and infrastructure to welfare and climate resilience, a new question arises: How can Karnataka make every rupee spent more effectively?

In an era where public finances are stretched, the conversation must move beyond resource mobilisation and focus on how effectively these resources are used. Karnataka's fiscal record remains commendable. Its tax revenue touched Rs 1.82 lakh crore in 2024-25, one of the highest among large states, and its debt-GSDP ratio remains within the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) limit. However, rising social sector obligations, growing salary and pension commitments, and infrastructure backlogs have all tightened fiscal space. The challenge is therefore not one of generating funds, but of spending them smarter, ensuring that every rupee delivers maximum developmental value.

The CAG's 2023 State Finance Report highlighted the uneven effectiveness of Karnataka's developmental spending. Many programmes, though well-intentioned, overlap in purpose and spread administrative resources thin. The state currently operates over 1,800 schemes across different departments (Economic Survey of Karnataka, 2024-25). Several of these, particularly in rural development, agriculture, and education, target the same population groups with similar objectives but different delivery systems. This leads to duplication, coordination gaps, and reduced efficiency. Rationalising these schemes into broader, integrated missions could help reduce overheads while improving outcomes. For instance, rather than running multiple fragmented schemes for farmers covering soil health, irrigation support, and input subsidies, Karnataka could consolidate them into a single Farm Productivity and Resilience Mission, incorporating digital monitoring, efficient water use, and market linkage initiatives.

Fund utilisation also needs closer attention. The CAG's report noted that over Rs 10,000 crore in sanctioned funds remained unspent or without utilisation certificates, particularly in major sectors such as health, education, and rural infrastructure. The audit observed that delays in implementation and weak financial monitoring continue to constrain the effectiveness of public spending. These are not failures of fiscal intent but of implementation processes. Funds are often released late, tendering is delayed, and expenditures tend to accumulate towards the end of the financial year, reducing quality and impact. Expanding the use of the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) can change this. Real-time monitoring of expenditure and linking fund releases to performance indicators would improve efficiency and transparency.

Improving efficiency in revenue spending could free up fiscal space for productive capital investments. Redirecting modest savings from underutilised schemes, redundant administrative layers, or low-impact subsidies would yield long-term economic dividends. In the education and health sectors, which together account for over Rs 60,000 crore in annual spending, there are opportunities to improve outcomes through better planning and monitoring. Many projects face cost overruns due to delays in procurement and slow implementation. Introducing mid-year outcome reviews and performance-linked fund releases can enhance accountability.

Equally important is decentralisation. The state's consistent top ranking in devolution of powers, along with participatory planning initiatives, illustrates how decentralised decision-making can enhance accountability and ensure that development priorities reflect ground realities. While these efforts are ongoing, they underscore how bottom-up planning can improve efficiency and accountability.

Focus on outcomes

For Karnataka to sustain its growth trajectory, efficiency in public expenditure must become a policy priority. The state already has the institutional and digital infrastructure to lead this shift. What is needed is a systematic move from input-based budgeting, focused on how much is spent, to outcome-based governance, where success is measured by tangible results. Regular departmental expenditure reviews should be institutionalised, identifying schemes with low utilisation or overlapping objectives, and allowing funds to be reallocated to high-performing areas. The Budget Estimates vs Actual Expenditure gap, which averages around 10-12% in key departments, underscores the potential gains from closer monitoring. Linking releases to progress metrics will encourage timely spending and discourage the year-end rush that compromises quality.

Digital financial management tools can strengthen transparency. Expanding IFMS into a comprehensive public dashboard, integrated with Kutumba and Seva Sindhu platforms, would enable the government and citizens to track spending in real time. This would improve accountability and build public trust in the efficiency of welfare and development programmes. Karnataka's fiscal journey is not about cutting spending but about spending better.

(The writer is an associate professor, Department of Economics, Christ University, Bengaluru)

ICDS at 50: An enduring lifeline in need of renewal

JOS CHATHUKULAM

Five decades ago, in 1975, India launched the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme with the ambitious aim of promoting nutrition support for children under six, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Since then, ICDS has remained the anchor of India's fight against child malnutrition, supporting early childhood care and education (ECCE) and integrating health, nutrition and development interventions through a vast network of Anganwadi centres. It was also India's first attempt to combine welfare with grassroots governance. With close to 14 lakh Anganwadis, it remains one of the largest early childhood and nutrition networks in the world. Its success lies in reach and the integration of ICDS-Anganwadi centres.

Over the years, ICDS has adapted to changing needs--from hot cooked meals to Take-Home Ration (THR), and from manual registers to smartphone-based monitoring. Initiatives such as POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) and Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 reflect a sustained national commitment to building a healthier generation. Today, ICDS is central to India's pledge to nourish its youngest citizens, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2 on zero hunger and SDG 3 on good health and well-being) and contributing to the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

ICDS remains a cornerstone of India's social development architecture, representing something rare in India's welfare and development politics: a long-term, child- and women-centred policy commitment. It has lifted millions of children out of hunger and nutritionally empowered vulnerable girls and women, built a solid generation of frontline workers (Anganwadi workers and helpers), and embedded nutrition into governance and policy framework.

A key strengths of the ICDS–Anganwadi framework is its integrated approach, combining nutrition, health services, pre-school education, and community outreach. This fosters convergence across sectors and simplifies access for beneficiaries. With the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the ICDS-Anganwadis have been entrusted with a greater role in ECCE, bringing them closer to the formal school system.

The continuity of care offered by ICDS is another distinct attribute. Studies show that mothers who receive ICDS support during pregnancy are more likely to enrol their children in Anganwadis, creating a positive cycle across generations.

But as ICDS turns 50, its achievements sit alongside persistent challenges. Many Anganwadi centres lack adequate infrastructure, including toilets, safe drinking water, storage facilities and consistent supplies. Concerns continue about the nutritional quality and quantity of food. Anganwadi workers and helpers face high workloads, low honorariums, insufficient training and poor digital literacy.

IF ICDS is to remain relevant in a rapidly changing world, it must transfer. It must look beyond nutrition and food security towards holistic child and family development. Expanding ECCE by aligning it with NEP 2020 and global early development frameworks is essential. Professional training, including specialised training such as Montessori education, should be integrated into capacity-building programmes for Anganwadi workers.

NEP 2020 places strong emphasis on ECCE and envisions Anganwadis as foundational units of the education system, providing high-quality pre-school education for children aged three to six. It advocates integrating Anganwadis with school complexes to ensure continuity in learning and smooth transition to primary schools. This requires well-trained workers equipped to deliver play-based, activity-oriented learning, supported by a structured curriculum.

Nearly 85% of a child's brain development occurs before the age of six, highlighting the need for structured stimulation and early learning during these formative years. Anganwadis therefore require trained professionals who can monitor cognitive development, deliver age-appropriate learning activities and ensure a nurturing environment.

With the NEP 2020 prioritising foundational learning and the ECCE, Anganwadis must evolve beyond their traditional role. This transformation is crucial not only for meeting SDGs but also for realising the aspirations of Viksit Bharat 2047.

To meet evolving needs, Anganwadis must modernise their infrastructure and strengthen operations through the use of ICT tools, smart learning spaces, and robust monitoring mechanisms. A national-level monitoring mechanism is essential. Integrating artificial intelligence and real-time databases can enable informed planning, course correction, accountability, and replace fragmented monitoring systems. Data-driven accountability and decision-making--from grassroots to the national level-- will be key to ensuring transparency and accountability.

If ICDS is to remain effective for the next fifty years, its objectives must be realigned with India's aspirations for health, education, equity and sustainable development. Future reforms should prioritise infrastructure, service delivery, workforce professionalism, community engagement and better governance. The ICDS -Anganwadis must evolve into nutrition-cum-learning centres, supported through convergence with schemes like Ayushman Bharat, National Health Mission, along with involvement of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs). Extending Ayushmaan Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana to cover children registered in Anganwadis and their families would provide a stronger safety net.

Capacity building through regular training in ECCE, nutrition and digital tools is crucial, as is sustained budgetary support.

(The writer is former professor, Sri Ramakrishna Hegde Chair on Decentralisation and Development, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru)

Afghan officials are lashing out against their former allies in the Pakistani military as hostilities between the two countries intensify

At a shared symbol of *jihad*, the Taliban defy old ties with Pak

MUJIB MASHAL

Fighters near the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, a few days after Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi's visit to a seminary in Deoband. REUTERS

The Afghan Taliban foreign minister arrived at the Islamic seminary to a rockstar's welcome. Students and teachers swarmed around his limo. Crowds of people streamed past me just to catch a glimpse of him.

But this was not in Afghanistan. The seminary he was visiting was in India, a country that had long kept its distance from the Taliban during their decades as an insurgency that New Delhi saw as a proxy for its arch-enemy, Pakistan.

During his first official visit to India last month, the Afghan foreign minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, received the warmest welcome. He stood for photographs with officials in New Delhi after they promised to elevate India's mission in Kabul to a full embassy for the first time in years. And I watched him openly beaming during his pilgrimage to the Deoband seminary in north India, the spiritual source of the Taliban's twinned creeds of conservative religion and holy war.

The whole visit seemed to be a message of defiance to Pakistan's powerful military, once the benefactors of the Taliban's insurgency in Afghanistan, but increasingly at odds with them now that the movement is in power in Kabul.

Through the years, Pakistan has taken any overture toward India as an inherently hostile act, and Muttaqi's visit clearly crossed some line. Within hours of his arrival in India, Pakistan's military was conducting airstrikes on the Afghan capital, an unprecedented escalation between the former allies that set off a wave of tit-for-tat violence and put both countries on a kind of war footing for a week.

Pakistani officials accuse Afghanistan's rulers of supporting a resurgent Pakistani Taliban offensive by hosting and sheltering militants who have struck again and again at the security forces within Pakistan.

While Afghan officials deny that support, saying that the attacks within Pakistan are by internally inspired militants, they readily acknowledge a kinship with the Pakistani Taliban. Both groups are largely ethnic Pashtun, and both have common ties to the offshoots of the original Deoband seminary that Muttaqi visited.

The Deobandi schools in Pakistan cropped up after India's partition in 1947 and later, with the aid of CIA and Saudi money pumped into the region to defeat the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, helped fuel the *jihadi* creed that became the Afghan Taliban.

Now, the legacy of that ideology, which repeatedly rallied neighbours to fight invaders, has grown increasingly messy and is dividing the former allies.

That Pakistan would now be facing its own persistent *jihadi* militancy problem after the Afghan Taliban's victory over the US-backed Afghan government in 2021 is a result predicted by many analysts — and long feared within Pakistan itself. But the sheer speed of degeneration of relations between the neighbours has surprised many.

"They created their own Frankenstein, and they thought they could control them," said David B Edwards, a professor of anthropology at Williams College who has chronicled the rise of Islamic militancy in Afghanistan and Pakistan. He was referring to Pakistan's military intelligence agency, which initially supported the Taliban insurgency and now combats one.

Edwards said the clash between the two governments is a reminder of a more fundamental territorial dispute that had been pushed to the background during decades of conflict in Afghanistan, but never gone away: The Afghan side never fully accepted the 19th-century boundary drawn by the British that split the Pashtun tribes between Afghanistan and what is now Pakistan.

In the wake of recent military escalation, leaders of the Taliban government have resorted to rhetoric showing that cross-border Pashtun nationalism has not been tempered by decades of support and ideological injection from Pakistan.

The Taliban's deputy interior minister, Mohammad Nabi Omari, who spent a decade in US detention at Guantánamo Bay, has ridiculed Pakistan's prime minister as a puppet of President Donald Trump. And he used a term for Pakistani soldiers killed by Taliban fire that the Taliban in the past would use to describe American soldiers or security forces of the Afghan republic: *murdar*, a Pashto word for dirty.

"God is creating a pretext for that old territory of Afghanistan that is left with them, on that side of a theoretical boundary, to be returned to us," he told a public gathering in Afghanistan last month.

The red carpet welcome in India for the Taliban foreign minister, who required an exemption from U.N. sanctions to be able to travel, in the middle of the escalation suggested that India was hoping to exploit the tensions. And Afghan officials are publicly demonstrating that they reject any dependence on Pakistan, even religiously or ideologically.

The 135-year-old Deoband seminary that Muttaqi visited was an important wellspring of conservative Islam for visiting Afghan scholars before its post-independence offshoots in Pakistan took precedence in recent decades. The school emphasised fundamentalist religious teachings over modern sciences, and its followers played an active role in the Indian independence movement against British colonialism.

Last month, leaders of the seminary beamed in pride at reconnecting with Afghan rulers who look up to their ideology. They refused to discuss some of the harshest measures of the Taliban government, including banning girls' education beyond sixth grade, in the name of that ideology.

"Deoband is like the mother of our knowledge," Muttaqi told a large gathering of students and teachers in one hall.

Opinion in Pakistani religious circles has been divided over Muttaqi's trip to India. Leaders of the Haqqania madrassa in Pakistan, where he is an alumnus, described the red carpet welcome "of our proud son" as a celebration of the victory of "a long chain of *jihadi* sacrifice."

Others, like the Peshawar-based religious scholar Tayyab Qureshi, saw it an expression of ungrateful Taliban seeking new patrons.

"Muttaqi, who learned his religious scholarship and even his Urdu language here in Pakistan, not in Deoband, needs to remember the sacrifices Pakistan paid in their support," Qureshi said. "New Delhi is tactfully leveraging the friction between Islamabad and Kabul to advance its own agenda."

Administrators at seminaries in Pakistan said that Afghan enrolment has dwindled over the past three years, after the Taliban administration set up hundreds of new seminaries of its own across Afghanistan, and Pakistan pushed Afghan refugees back in large numbers.

Now, a month after Muttaqi's visit, Afghanistan and Pakistan are still seething at each other. And tensions have risen between India and Pakistan after deadly bombings a day apart in each of their capitals last week. Some analysts fear that a cycle of blame could bring those nuclear-armed neighbours back toward hostilities just a few months after a ceasefire halted an alarming four-day military conflict.

In Afghanistan, leaders continue their defiant talk against Pakistan. They make little secret that their ties to the Pakistani Taliban and their shared bond of conservative ideology trump any gratitude to Pakistan's establishment for its past help.

In his public address last month, Omari, the Afghan deputy interior minister, warned Pakistan against any further military action. And he flexed the Taliban's asymmetrical victory against US military might, wondering aloud whether Pakistan might be next.

"You may have airplanes and tanks, but we have the kind of fighters who are sitting here itching for when jihad will begin again," he said. "Because, when you are addicted to, say, chewing tobacco—excuse my language—you can't quit so easily.

"Our fighters are used to these wars over the past 20-25 years," he said, "and they are wishing for another war to be rewarded with martyrdom."

The New York Times

AI fix for India's accident tribunals

SIMRANJIT SINGH

On November 23, 2022, Arunkumar, a 30-year-old bank manager from Hubballi, died in a road accident while returning home. He left behind his wife and their one-year-old son. Four months later, his dependants filed a petition before the district Motor Accident Tribunal. It took the Tribunal over 18 months to decide compensation –and it undervalued the award by nearly Rs 50 lakh.

Arunkumar's case is one of almost nine lakh accident claims pending before tribunals and high courts nationwide. Nearly three lakh of these are before high courts alone. The system is clearly failing victims.

Motor accident compensation involves little more than straightforward calculations, besides witness depositions and lawyers' submissions. Yet cases take an average of four years to conclude. Justice is delayed not only for accident victims but for millions of other litigants, as motor accident cases consume almost half the working hours of senior civil courts. In 2023, Justice Arvind Kumar urged the use of artificial intelligence to determine compensation.

The Supreme Court introduced the Electronic Detailed Accident Report (E-DAR) scheme through orders in WP 295 of 2012, with the aim of disposing of cases within four months of the police reporting accidents to tribunals and insurers. Despite repeated directions and close monitoring by the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety, the scheme has achieved only limited success – even in Delhi, the best-performing state. Disposals there barely outpace new filings. Elsewhere, the impact is negligible.

Why has the scheme faltered? Largely because stakeholders navigate the process poorly. Police treat E-DAR as a mere paperwork exercise -- sending documents to tribunals, insurers, and legal service authorities – while failing to inform victims of their rights. This is why most E-DARs (except in Delhi) do not translate into tribunal proceedings, contrary to the SC's intent.

Insurers, legal service authorities, and tribunals act as passive recipients of E-DARs, with minimal follow-up until a victim or lawyer files a petition. The four largest insurers, who control 30-40% of the market, lack internal guidelines for handling E-DAR notices. The scheme imposes little responsibility on insurers or tribunals despite their central role in timely disposal. Tribunals are not even part of the integrated road accidents database, which provides real-time information on accidents and victims.

Although the law treats motor accident cases as inquiries –not trials – lawyers continue to handle them like regular civil suits. Supreme Court directions require them to file written statements in specific formats meant to make proceedings cooperative. These directions are routinely ignored, resulting in disorderly hearings and legally flawed judgements. Nearly a third of all pending cases are challenged before high courts, mainly arising from tribunal-level errors.

The problems compound at the high court level due to calculation or judgement errors by tribunals and frivolous appeals. Many such appeals are later settled in the Lok Adalats for as little as Rs 15,000-20,000—often less than the legal fees involved.

Digital solutions can resolve many of these problems. First, tribunals need automated tools to follow up with police for missing documents and to issue digital summons to victims and insurers–kickstarting proceedings without delay.

Second, lawyers' initial submissions should be filed through digitised versions of the SC-prescribed formats. This would combine multiple early stages, such as framing issues, application hearings, and written statements, into a single stage. Such simple digitisation could cut pendency by 17-20%, while helping tribunals frame issues correctly and determine questions such as burden of proof with clarity.

Most cases require depositions only from eyewitnesses and investigating officers. But tribunals routinely summon insurers and doctors merely to reiterate admitted facts. This needless practice makes witness examination account for nearly 40% of pending cases in Karnataka and 24% nationally. Kerala avoids this and keeps the stage to just 6% of its backlog. Mandating digital submissions—including admission or disputing of relevant facts—would end the conversion of these enquiries into adversarial trials. This would align with the statute's spirit reaffirmed by the Supreme Court in *Srikrishna Kanta vs Oriental* (March, 2025).

Once initial stages are digitised, an AI tool trained on accurate legal datasets can generate draft judgements based on admitted facts. Lawyers may accept or contest these drafts, and tribunals can issue final orders after review. Combined with AI tools, these reforms can deliver faster, accurate judgements--removing the need for lengthy litigations to perform basic calculations. Civil courts would then be free to focus on complex disputes where human reasoning is essential.

(The writer, a graduate of the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, is a legal officer with a general insurance major)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER 1975

PM asks police to protect weaker sections

Hyderabad, November 17
Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today called upon the police to change their attitude and help the poor and weaker sections by functioning as guardians to protect their rights. She was taking the salute at the passing-out parade of the 27th batch of IPS probationers at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy here. She said the various measures for ameliorating the conditions of the weaker sections had aroused the anger of the traditionally powerful sections.

25 YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER 2000

Krishna announces STF action to nab Veerappan

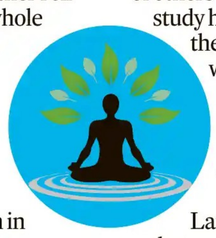
New Delhi, Nov 17
The Karnataka government has already launched the Special Task Force operation to apprehend forest brigand Veerappan while the Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu may meet soon to discuss the Central help for the operation against him. Chief Minister S M Krishna told reporters here today that he has already directed the police to restart their work in the MM Hills area which was suspended on July 30 in the wake of the kidnapping of Dr Rajkumar by the outlaw.

OASIS | NAZEER AHMED KAZI

What is true religion?

An incident from the life of Mother Teresa, the great humanitarian: Once a journalist asked her, "Do you convert the people who come to you into Christians?" She replied, "Yes, I do convert—but not in the way you think. I help a Hindu become a better Hindu, a Muslim become better Muslim and a Christian become a better Christian. My goal is not religious conversion but to become a good human being."

Some one asked Swami Vivekananda, "Swami*ji*, what is religion according to you?" He replied, "Religion is the process of transforming the human being into divine being who moves closer to God." He also said, "A Hindu need not become a Muslim, nor should a Muslim become Hindu, or Christian. Every person should absorb the noble teachings and values from other religions." If this happens, the whole world will surely become an abode of peace and love.



The *Bhagavad Gita* teaches that "the real religion is understanding our true relationship with God". The Quran declares: "Let there be no compulsion in the religion".

The Bible says, "Pure religion is to care for those in need and to keep oneself untainted by the sins of the World". Prophet Muhammad (s) said: "Let every one follow his own religion strictly and do not hurt religious sentiments of others". Every believer should first study his own religion deeply and then learn about other religions with equal respect.

Interfaith discussions in a spirit of friendship and understanding brings hearts closer.

One of India's tallest leaders, Late Jayaprakash Narayan, said that merely talking about peace is useless unless we practice it sincerely. The Sanskrit phrase *Vasudhaiva kutumbakam* means "the world is one family". It reminds us that all people irrespective of caste, colour and religion are inter-connected, and part of a global family.

In today's world filled with hatred, violence, selfishness, and hostility, let us raise for love, trust, peace, humanity and mutual understanding. Through these values, we can build a bright future for our country and the world. Our constitution provides the foundation for peaceful coexistence among people of many cultures and religions.

The essence of all religions itself is peace, and harmony. Terrorists have no religion and religion has no place for terrorism.

Supreme Court flags easy access risk in sale of alcohol in tetra packs

Criticises state governments for prioritising revenue over public health

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday expressed serious concern about the sale of liquor in tetra packs—a type of plasticised cardboard cartons for liquids folded from a single sheet into a box shape, named after their Swiss manufacturer Tetra Pak — while criticising state governments for prioritising revenue over public health.

"The sale of liquor in the tetra packs may provide easy access to schoolgoing children, and its deceptive looks may go unnoticed by parents as well," said a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi.

The court made the observations upon being shown tetra pack containers of whisky for sale during the hearing of a trademark dispute case.

SUPREME COURT

"Should this at all be permitted? We think this is very dangerous. It can be taken to schools or colleges by the students in their bags. Parents can be easily deceived.

The court was dealing with a plea by John Distilleries Ltd against a Madras High Court order in favour of Allied Blenders and Distillers, the maker of Officer's Choice whisky, and ordered the removal of John Distilleries' "Original Choice" trademark from the register of trademarks.

On the issue of the widespread sale of liquor in tetrapack, the court pointed out that the packaging resembled that of fruit-juice boxes, carried no health warnings, and enabled children to discreetly carry alcohol to school.

In this case, the bench referred the parties to retired judge Justice L Nageswara Rao for a time-bound mediation and possible settlement. It directed that preliminary discussions be held within a week, and also sought a status update in two weeks.

The matter pertained to a longstanding trademark battle between liquor giants Ms Allied Blenders and Distillers Pvt Ltd, which markets its whisky under the name "Officer's Choice", and Ms John Distillers Ltd, which markets its whisky under the name "Original Choice".

During the hearing, the petitioner placed the original bottles of both products, followed by their tetrapak versions. Considering the nature of the contest and its background, the court felt that an amicable resolution through mediation might be a more effective route.

Iran suspends visa-free entry for Indians over 'misuse'

NEW DELHI, PTI: Iran has suspended the visa waiver facility for ordinary Indian passport holders in the wake of several reported incidents of Indians being lured to that country on false promises of employment or with assurances of onward transit to other countries, according to the MEA.

The Ministry of External Affairs on Monday said the government's attention has been drawn to several incidents of Indian nationals being lured to Iran on false promises of employment or with assurances of onward transit to third countries.

The government of Iran has accordingly "suspended the visa waiver facility" available to ordinary Indian passport holders visiting Iran with effect from November 22. This measure is intended to prevent further misuse of the facility by criminal elements, the MEA said in a statement.

From this date, Indian nationals with ordinary passports would be required to obtain a visa to enter or transit through Iran, it said.

"The attention of government has been drawn to several incidents of Indian nationals being lured to Iran on false promises of employment or with assurances of onward transit to third countries.

"These individuals were tricked into journeying to Iran by taking advantage of visa waiver facility available for ordinary Indian passport holders. On arrival in Iran, many of them were kidnapped for ransom," the MEA said.

Guj forest officer held as family bodies found in pit

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

The Bhavnagar police in Gujarat on Monday arrested Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Shailesh Khambhla for allegedly murdering his wife Naina (42), daughter Prutha (13), and son Bhavya (eight).

The cops said Khambhla, a Class-1 officer, had filed a complaint on November 14 claiming that his wife and children were missing.

He approached the cops with leaders from his community to "pressure the police" to find the whereabouts of his family. However, the police reportedly became suspicious of him from day one due to his demeanour.

Bhavnagar district Superintendent of Police (SP) Nitish Pandey told reporters that Khambhla "wasn't sad or even agitated in the way a person whose family goes missing reacts".

Technical probe, including phone-location and CCTV-footage scrutiny, didn't show the missing persons leaving Bhavnagar. Khambhla, however, told the police that they had left for Surat. Meanwhile, the police got a tip-off about suspicious activities near Khambhla's official residence in the forest colony, whose timing coincided with the disappearance.

They were informed that a pit had been dug a week ago and was subsequently covered, reportedly on Khambhla's orders.

After confirming with the forest officials involved in the digging, the police dug up the pit and recovered the bodies on Sunday.

"The digging, prima facie, looks like part of the premeditated act. Sometime on November 5, the suspect strangled the wife, then the children with a pillow. He then dragged their bodies to the pit, throwing stones on top to prevent the bodies from resurfacing due to water. He even placed a mattress over them to conceal them further," Pandey told *DH*.

A day after the murder, as per the statement recorded by a junior forest official and reproduced in the FIR, Khambhla ordered a dumper truck of sand. Officials came with a sand-laden truck, and Khambhla took them to the pit close to his residence.

French consulate staffer molested in Mumbai; accused held

MUMBAI, PTI: A 27-year-old French woman, working at her country's consulate in Mumbai, was allegedly molested by a scooter-borne man in the upscale Bandra area, a police official said on Monday.

Police arrested the accused, a 25-year-old scrap dealer from Dharavi, on Saturday night, less than 24 hours after a complaint was filed in connection with last week's incident, he said.

According to the Khar police station official, the accused, Sunil Waghela, was booked under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita section 74 (assault or criminal force to a woman with intent to outrage her modesty). Police have seized the scooter used in the offence, he added.

After the complaint was received, police scanned over 50 CCTV recordings from Bandra as part of investigation into the case. "We found Waghela following the victim on a scooter before stopping by her side and speeding away after molesting her. It is suspected the accused had been following the victim for a few days before committing the offence," according to the official.

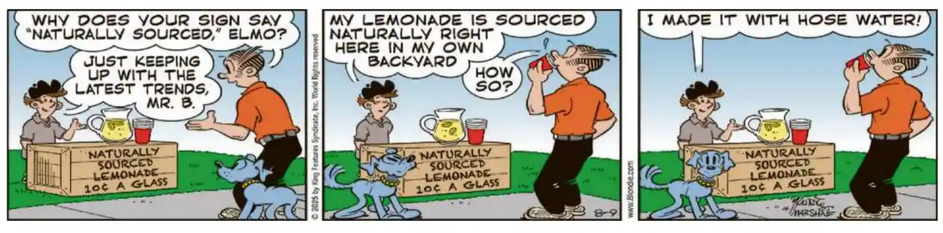
On November 7, the victim, employed by the consulate as a French teacher, visited her friend's home in Pali Hill and was walking back to her accommodation at 12.25 am on November 8 when the assault occurred, he said.

Using the scooter's registration number traced through CCTV, police identified Waghela's address about 100 metres from the police station in Dharavi, a sprawling slum colony, the official stated.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie


WHY DOES YOUR SIGN SAY "NATURALLY SOURCED," ELMO?
JUST KEEPING UP WITH THE LATEST TRENDS, MR. B.
NATURALLY SOURCED LEMONADE 10¢ A GLASS
MY LEMONADE IS SOURCED NATURALLY RIGHT HERE IN MY OWN BACKYARD
HOW SO?
I MADE IT WITH HOSE WATER!

Hagar The Horrible

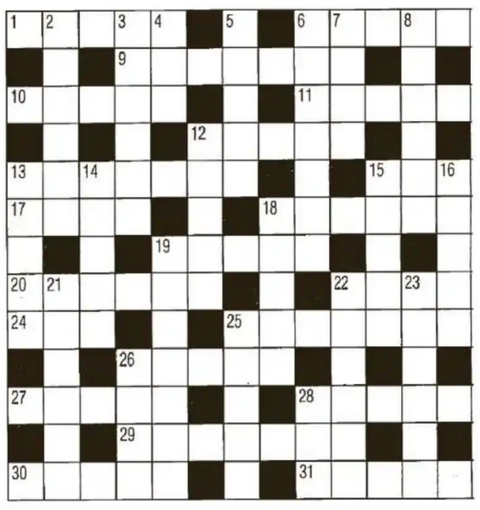
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

OKAY, EUDORA, YOU FISH IN THIS PART OF THE STREAM, AND I'LL FISH DOWN THERE IN THAT PART...
I DON'T THINK THIS IS GOING TO WORK
WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?
EITHER THE STREAM IS TOO NARROW, OR MY LINE IS TOO LONG...

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12290



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 It's customary to have a little after finishing lunch (5)
6 A knotty snag (5)
9 Hire a map-maker? (7)
10 Like a vagabond boy on the street (5)
11 Blue blooded boys (5)
12 Some gangster's girl? (5)
13 Raised a hand to an officer (7)
15 The place for tired flowers? (3)
17 Extra cross (4)
18 In a dream, perhaps, I love (6)
19 Doesn't continue to change posts (5)
20 Tough about money? Not likely! (6)
22 Shoot up, sounding angry (4)
24 I again show anger! (3)
25 Clearly there's a port authority in outer Londonderry (7)
26 Climb on a fish's back? (5)
27 Oil-rich, maybe, he hikes around (5)
28 Operatives who make hissing noises when out of food (5)
29 One can be clear about it being a performance (7)
30 Indefatigable judge? (5)
31 A riotous stay out East with a poet (5)

DOWN
2 I've never seen any such body (6)
3 Fabulous flier who became overheated (6)
4 Your worthy half (3)
5 Ready to fight rather than leg it (5)
6 Her lads have become messengers (7)
7 Novel material for a mask (4)
8 The huntsman's drink? (6)
12 Full of pith, but not the vegetable kind (5)
13 Old soldier who wrecked a ship (5)
14 Most recluses manage to get money (5)
15 Beastly twin boy? (5)
16 Costly to the very end, darling (5)
18 New Yorkers live in the Big one (5)
19 One only relatively idle? (7)
21 Bowman bent on being on radio? (6)
22 It's easy to give a wry smile about poor start (6)
23 He lived near Victoria (6)
25 Welsh party maybe, but it's of Scottish pattern (5)
26 Your majesty's horse? (4)
28 Suppose Sally's lost fifty quid (3)

ACROSS
1 Young dog (5)
6 Alcoholic drink (5)
9 Dictionary (7)
10 Regions (5)
11 Regal (5)
12 Derision (5)
13 Exhaustion (7)
15 Congeal (3)
17 Dry (4)
18 Globe (6)
19 Failing, defect (5)
20 Minor earthquake (6)
22 Scorch (4)
24 Possesses (3)
25 Confuses (7)
26 Cut of beef (5)
27 Fact (5)
28 Student (5)
29 Bullfighter (7)
30 Fiend (5)
31 Television, informally (5)

DOWN
2 Pandemonium (6)
3 Peaceful, mild (6)
4 Affirmative (3)
5 Female relative (5)
6 Accepting bribes (7)
7 Privy to (2,2)
8 Pencil rubber (6)
12 Sucrose (5)
13 Trust (5)
14 Multiplied by (5)
15 Hereditary units (5)
16 Looks at lasciviously (5)
18 Smooth and shiny (5)
19 Male servant (7)
21 Plunder (6)
22 Surgical stitch (6)
23 Antenna (6)
25 Trite (5)
26 Japanese wrestling (4)
28 Container (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12289

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 3, Doubt 8, Wagon 10, Roman 11, C-up 12, Scrap 13, Sevent-h 15, Super 18, Far 19, A-spire 21, Honesty 22, Ave.-R 23, Pent 24, S-crib-es 26, H-earth 29, Rod 31, Saner 32, Dead-Pan 34, MIX-ED 35, L-it 36, Cloud 37, Gents 38, See-d-y.
DOWN: 1, P-aces 2, Hope for 4, Ouch 5, Bra-SS-y 6, To-p up 7, Waver 9, Guv 12, Stretch 14, Nan 16, Pipes 17, Rests 19, Attired 20, M-aths 21, He-MA-n 23, Peddled 24, St.-ride 25, Boa 27, Early 28, Re-mus 30, Ba-TT-y 32, Deed (rev.) 33, Pin.

EASY
ACROSS: 3, Appal 8, Deter 10, Soars 11, Rot 12, Vests 13, Abysmal 15, Rebus 18, Log 19, Parade 21, Library 22, Atop 23, Desk 24, Snapper 26, Elicit 29, Hip 31, Local 32, Denotes 34, Remit 35, Sic 36, Preen 37, Minus 38, Steal.
DOWN: 1, Verbs 2, Let slip 4, Peel 5, Astray 6, Loser 7, Fraud 9, Toy 12, Vagrant 14, Mob 16, Baker 17, Seeks 19, Prophet 20, Camel 21, Logic 23, Deposit 24, Silent 25, Pin 27, Lorry 28, Cares 30, Recur 32, Diva 33, Tin.

◆SU-DO-KU-6754◆

9	3	8		2		7		
							1	
				4	6			
	7				1	9		
5		9				4		3
		2	6				7	
			4	1				
	9							
		1		8		6	2	7

medium

SOLUTION TO 6753

1	5	7	2	9	6	8	4	3
9	4	6	7	3	8	1	2	5
8	3	2	5	1	4	7	9	6
2	6	1	3	7	9	5	8	4
7	9	3	4	8	5	2	6	1
4	8	5	1	6	2	3	7	9
6	1	9	8	2	3	4	5	7
5	7	8	6	4	1	9	3	2
3	2	4	9	5	7	6	1	8

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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L1	L1	P3	P3	M3	U1	U1	5th Letter Triple	RACK 1
D2	H4	A1	E1	N1	R1	C3		RACK 2
X8	N1	S1	O1	O1	A1	Y4	Double Word Score	RACK 3
P3	N1	S1	O1	H4	S1	I1	4th Letter Triple	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 120-130
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

B3	E1	A1	T1	E1	N1		RACK 1 =	8
I1	R1	A1	T1	E1	L1	Y4	RACK 2 =	80
L1	A1	N1	D2	E1	D2		RACK 3 =	8
O1	U1	T1	C3	O1	M3	E1	RACK 4 =	64

PAR SCORE 105-115 JUDD'S TOTAL 160

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

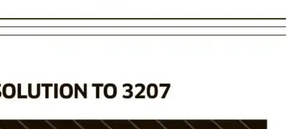
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MIBPL

VANAI

TRAAEK

MOCNOM


Doggone it! Max bumped me!
Good boy! You need steadier hands.
AFTER LOSING A GAME OF "OPERATION" WHEN THE DOG BUMPED HER HAND, SHE HAD ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AUDIT MONEY TRUDGE ACCESS
Answer: To get a royal flush playing poker, you just have to get cards that — SUIT YOUR NEEDS

HITORI-3208

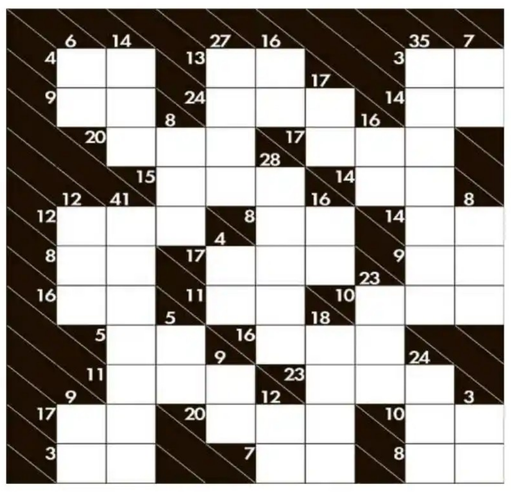
6	3	8	5	4	2	2	8
1	8	7	2	3	2	5	1
2	6	8	6	1	3	7	6
3	5	6	7	2	1	4	2
7	4	3	1	2	5	8	2
8	2	2	4	5	5	1	6
5	7	6	1	8	6	4	4
1	5	4	2	6	7	2	8

SOLUTION TO 3207

2	6	4	■	3	1	■	5
7	■	6	1	■	2	5	3
■	7	8	■	5	■	2	4
1	3	7	5	8	6	4	■
■	2	■	4	6	5	■	8
4	5	3	2	■	8	6	1
8	■	1	■	4	3	■	6
6	4	5	3	2	■	8	7

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

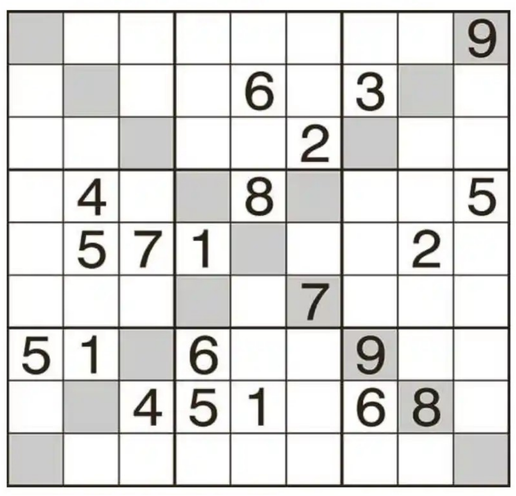
KAKURO- 3208



SOLUTION TO 3207

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3739



SOLUTION TO 3738

5	1	8	7	3	2	9	4	6
9	4	3	8	1	6	5	2	7
7	2	6	4	5	9	8	1	3
4	6	5	2	8	7	1	3	9
3	7	1	6	9	5	2	8	4
2	8	9	3	4	1	7	6	5
6	9	4	1	7	8	3	5	2
8	5	2	9	6	3	4	7	1
1	3	7	5	2	4	6	9	8

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

India emerging as a model for the world: Modi

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Calling India a model for growth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said India is not just an emerging market but an emerging model for the world, and the country is charting a path toward a vibrant and promising future.

Delivering the sixth Ramnath Goenka Lecture in New Delhi, the prime minister said, "Our GDP is growing at nearly 7% despite global instabilities."

Giving the example of Bihar, PM Modi said the BJP wins elections due to its commitment to development. "The people of Bihar have shown what their aspirations are, and they have placed their trust in those who they believe can deliver on those expectations," he said.

"The country's development must reach every section of society. We have seen over the past decades how some parties focused only on their interests, but our mission to build 12 crore toilets has restored dignity to those who were once forced to defecate in the open," he said.

He said in 2022, as Europe grappled with disrupted global supply chains and energy markets, India's economy had a robust growth in 2022-23. "At a time when the world grapples with uncertainty and fears of disruption, India is charting a path toward a vibrant and promising future," he said.

Delhi blast: Another key suspect held

NIA, FROM PAGE 1

According to the NIA, he played a critical technical role, allegedly modifying drones and attempting to fabricate rudimentary rockets ahead of the November 10 car bombing in Delhi that killed 13 people and injured more than 30. Investigators say he worked closely with the suspected suicide bomber Umar un Nabi, a Kashmiri doctor who died in the explosion.

The arrest comes amid growing scrutiny of a terror ecosystem that officials say involved doctors, university students and other white-collar professionals who were recruited and indoctrinated by handlers based within and outside India.

The network first drew attention after NIA arrested several Kashmiri doctors studying at Al-Falah University in Faridabad, early this month.

The NIA said it is "exploring all angles" to unravel the conspiracy behind the Red Fort bombing. Teams from the agency are pursuing leads across Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, conducting searches to identify every individual linked to planning, execution or facilitation.

18 members across three generations killed in Saudi bus tragedy

Kin demand probe into travel agency that facilitated pilgrims' travel to Saudi

S N V SUDHIR,
HYDERABAD, DHNS

A pall of gloom descended on a small bylane of Ram Nagar in Hyderabad's Vidyanagar as the Saudi road accident tragedy claimed 18 members of the same family—wiping out three generations—among the total 45 people killed.

The devastating accident in Saudi Arabia took the lives of an entire Hyderabad family who were on an Umrah pilgrimage. Among the dead were nine children.

The family had left for Saudi Arabia on November 9. Salauddin Shaik, 70, a retired Indian Railways employee who lived near the CPI state headquarters building in Vidyanagar, had gone on the Umrah pilgrimage with his wife, sons, daughters-in-law, daughters, sons-in-law, and grandchildren.

His extended family said Salauddin had three daughters and three sons. One son who lives in the US could not join them, while the remaining family members traveled to Saudi Arabia.

As almost the entire family had gone on the pilgrimage, no one was at home and the house remained locked. As news of the tragedy spread, close relatives and members of Salauddin's extended family gathered at his home. The wailing of Salauddin's sisters, whose entire family had been wiped out, echoed through Ram Nagar.

Salauddin's nephew, Mohammed Aslam, described it as an unfortunate incident and demanded a thorough investigation into the accident, as well as into the travel agency that facilitated the pilgrims' travel to Saudi Arabia.

A handout photo shows Syed Naseeruddin and his family before their departure for Saudi Arabia, in Hyderabad. PTI

24-yr-old sole survivor battling for life

HYDERABAD, DHNS: The sole survivor of the tragic accident in Saudi Arabia, Mohammed Abdul Shoaib, is now undergoing treatment in the ICU of a Saudi hospital, said Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar.

It is learnt that Shoaib suffered severe burn injuries. The 24-year-old was reportedly seated close to driver.

The pilgrims, who had left Hyderabad on November 9 completed their Umrah rituals in Makkah and were traveling for Ziyarath to Madinah when their bus collided with an oil tanker around 1:30 am Saudi time (4 am Indian time) near Muhras/Mufrihat, nearly 160 km from the holy city.

Mohd Abdul Shoaib

"My two brothers-in-law and mother-in-law were killed in the bus mishap. We have received confirmation from the travel company. We hope the Telangana government will help us with the further procedures," said one of the family members of the victims.

They had paid between Rs 96,000 and Rs 1.10 lakh per person for the Umrah pilgrimage. "I spoke to the External Affairs Minister, Dr S Jaishankar, who informed me that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had instructed him to dispatch a special team to speed up coordination efforts in Saudi Arabia. It is a matter of deep grief that the deceased hail from Telangana, and a majority of them are from my parliamentary constituency of Secunderabad," Union Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy said.

The Saudi government has started the process of identifying the bodies and issuing death certificates. Parallelly, a high-level inquiry has been initiated into the accident.

The Indian embassy is in touch with the Telangana government and the families, and the next-of-kin are being informed about the accident. The Indian government will abide by the choice made by the family on the issue of returning the mortal remains of the deceased.

Terror bust triggers scrutiny of Kashmiri MBBS graduates from Pak, Bangladesh

Intelligence agencies on toes to foil radicalisation efforts

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

The unearthing of a white-collar terror module with alleged links to educated professionals has prompted security agencies to intensify scrutiny of individuals who obtained MBBS degrees from Pakistan and Bangladesh over the past two decades.

Officials say hundreds of Kashmiri students travelled to Pakistan from the early 2000s onwards for medical education, and many more shifted to Bangladesh in recent years, creating a pool now being re-examined for possible financial and cross-border linkages.

The first wave of Kashmiri students headed to Pakistan between 2001 and 2010, joining medical colleges in Rawalpindi, Abbottabad, Bahawalpur, Faisalabad and Peshawar.

Many had crossed over during peak militancy, while others travelled on student visas or through links facilitated by separatist networks and families of militants.

Intelligence agencies have long maintained that some of these admissions were subsidised or supported by organisations later linked to terror financing, including Pakistan-based charities.

In several instances, tuition payments were allegedly routed through hawala channels, creating vulnerabilities that handlers could exploit later.

After returning to Kashmir, many Pakistan-educated graduates struggled with recognition issues and the mandatory screening exam in India. Agencies believe a small number stayed in touch with operatives of Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizbul Mujahideen, though most integrated into legitimate healthcare roles or moved abroad for work.

As scrutiny around Pakistan-educated doctors increased, Kashmiri students began turning to Bangladesh for MBBS courses in last decade.

While Bangladesh itself posed no security problem, investigators say that in a few cases, agents operating in both countries facilitated admissions using unclear financial channels, prompting questions about money trails.

Authorities are also examining instances where students studying in Bangladesh reportedly travelled to Pakistan or Gulf countries without clear academic reasons.

The immediate trigger for the wide review was the recent bust of a white-collar terror network. Investigators say the module relied on individuals with clean profiles—doctors, degree holders, and technical graduates—to move funds, relay communication and provide logistical support for handlers across the border.

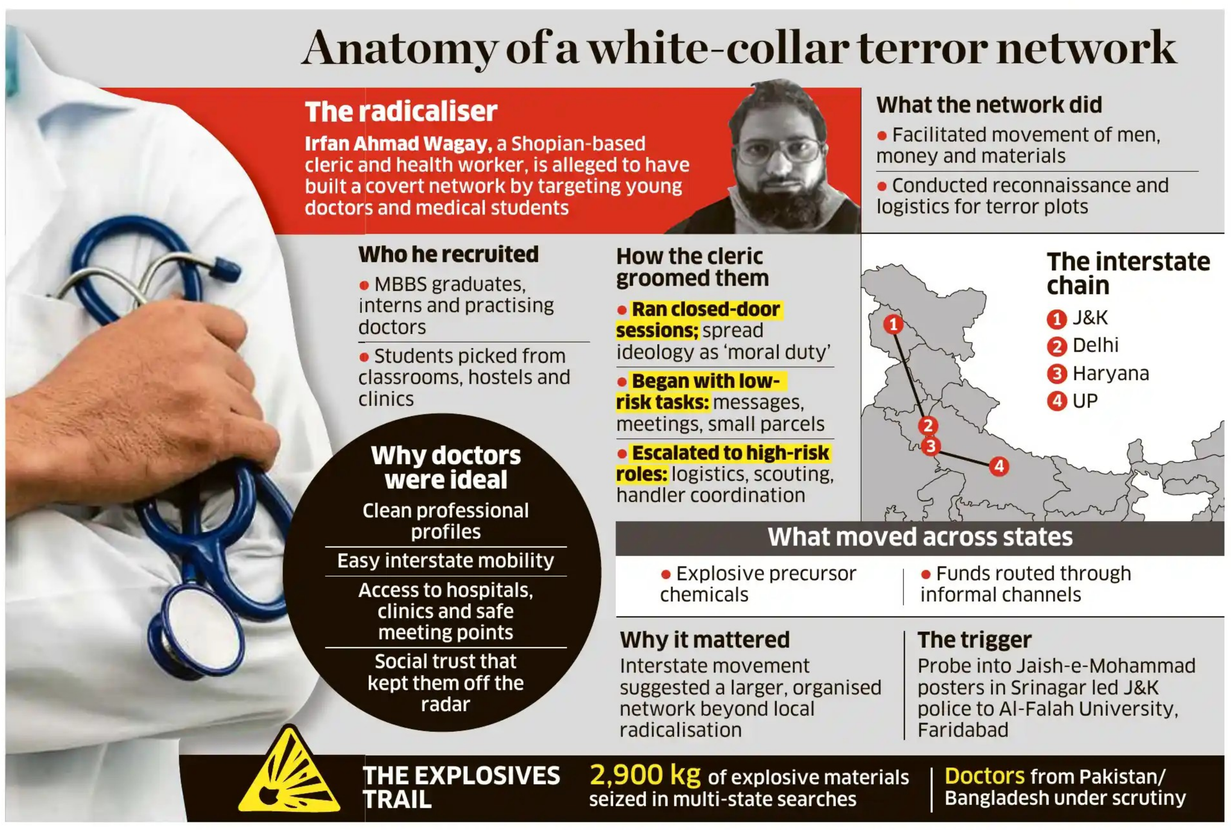
Security agencies in J&K, the NIA and central intelligence units are now compiling a consolidated database of all Kashmiri students who pursued MBBS degrees in Pakistan between 1998 and 2015 and those who studied in Bangladesh from 2010 onwards, sources said.

The exercise includes verification of funding sources, admission facilitators, cross-border family links, and the professional status of returnees, including those running unregistered clinics or repeatedly failing the Indian medical screening exams.

Delhi blast toll rises to 15

The death toll in the November 10 blast near the Red Fort rose to 15 after two more injured persons succumbed to their injuries at the LNJP Hospital here, an official said on Monday.

The deceased have been identified as as Lukmaan (50) and Vinay Pathak (50), a senior police officer said.


Anatomy of a white-collar terror network
The radicaliser
Irfan Ahmad Wagay, a Shopian-based cleric and health worker, is alleged to have built a covert network by targeting young doctors and medical students
What the network did
Facilitated movement of men, money and materials
Conducted reconnaissance and logistics for terror plots
Who he recruited
MBBS graduates, interns and practising doctors
Students picked from classrooms, hostels and clinics
How the cleric groomed them
Ran closed-door sessions; spread ideology as 'moral duty'
Began with low-risk tasks: messages, meetings, small parcels
Escalated to high-risk roles: logistics, scouting, handler coordination
The interstate chain
1 J&K
2 Delhi
3 Haryana
4 UP
Why doctors were ideal
Clean professional profiles
Easy interstate mobility
Access to hospitals, clinics and safe meeting points
Social trust that kept them off the radar
What moved across states
Explosive precursor chemicals
Funds routed through informal channels
Why it mattered
Interstate movement suggested a larger, organised network beyond local radicalisation
The trigger
Probe into Jaish-e-Mohammad posters in Srinagar led J&K police to Al-Falah University, Faridabad
THE EXPLOSIVES TRAIL
2,900 kg of explosive materials seized in multi-state searches
Doctors from Pakistan/ Bangladesh under scrutiny

Trader succumbs to burns after release from police custody

SRINAGAR, DHNS: A dry fruit vendor from Qazigund, who attempted self-immolation shortly after being questioned by police in a terror module investigation, died of his injuries at SMHS Hospital here after midnight, officials said on Monday.

The deceased, Bilal Ahmad Wani, sustained grievous burns on Sunday afternoon when he set himself on fire soon after being released from police custody.

He was initially taken to a healthcare facility in Anantnag but was shifted to SMHS as his condition worsened.

Officials said Wani and his son Jasir Bilal had been detained earlier for questioning in connection with the ongoing probe into a suspected white-collar terror network. While Wani was let off the same day, Jasir continues to be held for further interrogation.

Wani's home is located in the vicinity of Dr Muzaffar Rather, whom investigators describe as a central figure in the case.

Amir arranged logistical support for 'suicide bomber': NIA

NEW DELHI, PTI: The National Investigating Agency on Monday told a Delhi court that Amir Rashid Ali, a key accused in the Red Fort area car bomb blast case, allegedly arranged a safe house and provided logistical support to Dr Umar Nabi, the "suicide bomber" who was driving the explosive-laden car that detonated outside the Red Fort on November 10, killing 13 people.

Ali, a resident of Pampore in South Kashmir, was brought to the court of Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna at the Patiala House courts complex amid tight security.

Mediapersons were barred from entering the court premises, which virtually turned the proceedings 'in-camera'. According to NIA's remand paper, Ali's custodial interrogation was required to uncover the entire conspiracy.

Accused Amir Rashid Ali, in whose name the car involved in the blast near the Red Fort was registered, being brought to Patiala House Court in New Delhi. PTI

It said that Ali, the registered owner of the vehicle used in the incident, allegedly provided logistical support to Umar. The remand paper also claimed that Amir had arranged a safe house for Umar in the days leading up to the blast.

It said that the blast's precision and intensity had been deliberately designed to instil fear in the minds of the public, besides causing alarm and panic.

Underscoring the seriousness of the alleged plot, it said that the act was intended to threaten and destabilise the nation's sovereignty and unity.

The agency also told the court that Ali would be taken to Kashmir for further investigation.

The judge then allowed the National Investigation Agency's (NIA) plea seeking custodial interrogation of the accused for 10 days.

SC asks states to declare ESZs around tiger reserves

NEW DELHI, DHNS

In a significant verdict, the Supreme Court on Monday issued a slew of pan-India directions asking state governments to notify eco-sensitive zones (ESZs) around all tiger reserves, including buffer and fringe areas, within one year, and enforced a complete ban on mining activities within one kilometre of core or buffer zones.

The court also directed Uttarakhand to take measures to restore and undo the damage caused by illegal tree felling, and to ensure the demolition of all unauthorised structures in the Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve within three months.

It directed that all the restrictions will be in force in ESZs, including the restriction that "there will be a complete ban on mining activities" within a distance of 1 km from a tiger habitat or a buffer area.

Penning the 80-page verdict, Chief Justice of India BR Gavai issued directions — running into 28 pages — aimed at reversing large-scale ecological damage inside the tiger reserves. It said that if tourism is to be promoted, it must be eco-tourism.

The court issued a slew of directions to strengthen conservation efforts at Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve.

CONSERVATION

- Court bans mining activities within 1 km of buffer zones
- Orders Uttarakhand government to demolish illegal structures in Jim Corbett reserve within 3 months
- Verdict aims to reverse large-scale ecological damage inside tiger reserves

The bench, also comprising Justices Augustine George Masih and Atul S Chandurkar, listed certain activities to be banned in the buffer zone and catchment areas. The directions were issued as part of the court's judgment in the pending TN Godavarman case, on a plea filed by advocate Gaurav Kumar Bansal.

"The infrastructure of the forest camp must receive facilities like clean water," the court said, while directing the Chief Wildlife Warden to ensure demolition of all unauthorised structures in the Jim Corbett reserve within three months.

The SC also directed the court-appointed panel to supervise the ecological restoration plan developed by the Uttarakhand government.

"The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) shall supervise the ecological restoration plan developed by Uttarakhand," the bench stated.

While developing and implementing this plan, and carrying out afforestation, Uttarakhand must ensure that only native and indigenous species are used, taking special care not to introduce any alien species into the ecosystem.

Tiger safaris must comply with the 2019 rules of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren and others watch a drone show during an event celebrating silver jubilee of the state's formation, in Ranchi.

Jharkhand marks 25th formation day

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Chief Minister Hemant Soren kick-started the Jharkhand Rajya Diwas celebrations in Ranchi on Sunday — to mark the 25th anniversary of the state's creation — alongside wife Kalpana with a drone show, a play on Shibu Soren and a cultural show attended by 4,000 artistes from the tribal community. A procession was also held in Ranchi.

On Saturday, the first day of the two-day state festival, Soren announced 1,087 schemes worth Rs 8,799 crore in the presence of Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar.

A jatra tableau, held in Ranchi on Sunday, was a highlight of the festivities. The tableau showcased the state's rich tribal traditions, art, and cultural heritage. Artists from 32 tribal communities participated in the event, bringing Jharkhand's identity to life through their traditional costumes, dances, and folk songs.

Various programmes around the culture and literature of the state were presented, as was a special play on the life of Shibu Soren, highlighting his struggle and contribution to the creation of the Jharkhand state.

A drone show showcased various stages of development of the state, followed by singer Shilpa Rao's programme..

India-Russia ties factor of global stability: Jaishankar takes a dig at US

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The ties between New Delhi and Moscow have long been a factor of stability in international relations, said Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday, even as President Donald Trump recently stated that the United States might lower tariffs on India as it had slashed its Russian oil imports.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar in Moscow on Monday. AFP

The "growth and evolution" of Russia-India ties was in the interests of not only the two nations but also the entire world, said Jaishankar as he met his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, in Moscow for the preparation of the summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin, scheduled for early next month in New Delhi.

Jaishankar was apparently sending a subtle message to Washington, DC, where Trump and his aides, over the past few months, repeatedly hit out at India not only for its traditional dependence on Russia for military hardware but also for continuing to buy oil from it.

The US and the European Union have sanctioned Russia for launching "special military operations" in Ukraine in February 2022.

Meanwhile, Trump repeatedly claimed over the past few weeks to have received an assurance from Modi about India slashing oil imports from Russia.

This began on October 15, when he said the PM had assured him that India would cut its Russian oil imports. New Delhi stated that Modi and Trump had not spoken over the phone that day.

New Delhi also avoided an overtly confrontational approach when stating that India's import policies were guided entirely by the objective of safeguarding its consumers' interests.

Meanwhile, India and Russia are reportedly working on several deliverables for next month's summit, including several "bilateral agreements, initiatives, and projects" in various fields.

On Monday, Jaishankar and Lavrov also discussed the situation in the Middle East and the Pakistan-Afghanistan conflict.

"India supports recent efforts towards establishing peace... An early cessation of the conflict and the ensuring of an enduring peace is in the interest of the entire international community," Jaishankar told Lavrov.

Political rift: A cruel fate for a leader who was once seen as a towering force

Rise and ruin of Bangladesh's 'Iron Lady'

Hasina's conviction underscores deep fractures in the country

NEW DELHI/DHAKA, PTI

For nearly two decades, Sheikh Hasina's name moved with the pulse of Bangladesh, sometimes steady, sometimes storm-tossed.

To her supporters, she is the architect of a modern, developing Bangladesh; to her critics, she was an autocrat whose appetite for power blinded her to the cries of the streets.

Few, however, could have imagined that the very tribunal the 77-year-old deposed prime minister once created to try hardened war collaborators would one day place her in the dock.

On Monday, when the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) pronounced the death sentence against Hasina in absentia, it marked the most dramatic turn yet in the story of the world's longest-serving female head of government.

Hasina was born on September 28, 1947, in Tungipara in the then East Pakistan, into a family that would come to define Bangladesh's identity. Her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, led Bangladesh to independence in 1971 and became its founding father. In 1968, Hasina married nuclear scientist M A Wazed Miah, whose low-profile, scholarly life stood in contrast to the turbulence of Bangladeshi politics. Wazed remained a steady presence in Hasina's life until he died in 2009 at the age of 67. They have a son, Sajeeb Wazed Joy and a daughter, Saima Wazed Putul.

Hasina's political destiny hardened after the August 1975 military coup, in which her father, mother, three brothers, and several other family members were assassinated. She and her younger sister Rehana survived only because they were abroad. India, under then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, granted her asylum. After six years, in May 1981, Hasina returned to Bangladesh, where she was elected in absentia as the general secretary of the Awami League. When Hasina returned in 1981 to lead the Awami League, she found her rival already waiting: Khaleda Zia, widow of slain president Ziaur Rahman.

Hasina first became prime minister in 1996, defeating Zia in a fiercely contested election. She lost power in 2001 but returned with a landslide in 2008, beginning, what her critics say, a long stretch of dominance. Under her leadership, the Awami League swept the 2008 general election; the 2014 election, which was boycotted by Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party; and the 2018 election, giving Hasina one of the world's longest tenures for a female leader.

People run past a sound grenade fired by police to disperse demonstrators, ahead of the verdict on cases against the ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in Dhaka on Monday. REUTERS

BANGLADESH CRISIS TIMELINE

Jul 2024: Protests begin
- Students protest against job-quota rules.
- Movement expands into nationwide anti-Hasina protests.

Jul–Aug 2024: Crackdown turns deadly
- Clashes between protesters, security forces and ruling Awami League supporters.
- Hundreds killed, thousands injured.

5 Aug 2024: Hasina flees
- Protesters march on the prime minister's residence.
- Hasina escapes to India and settles in New Delhi.

Aug–Sept 2024: Interim government announced
- A caretaker administration forms to restore order.
- Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus becomes head of interim government.

Jul 2025: July Declaration
- Reform charter proposes a boost in women's representation, PM term limits, stronger presidential powers, expanded rights, judicial independence and recognition of the 2024 uprising

17 Nov 2025: Hasina sentenced to death
- Court convicts Hasina of ordering the 2024 crackdown.

During her premiership, Bangladesh saw rapid economic growth, major infrastructure achievements like the Padma Bridge, and advances in poverty reduction. The country also became a global garment powerhouse under her watch.

But the accolades came alongside accusations of clampdowns on dissent and arrests of opposition leaders.

In 2024, student-led demonstrations, which initially erupted in protest over quotas in government jobs for children of independence war veterans, later exploded into a nationwide uprising against Hasina's regime. The crackdown that followed unleashed spirals of violence, ultimately ousting Hasina from power and forcing her to flee to India.

Dhaka steps up pressure on New Delhi to extradite ex-PM

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Even as Sheikh Hasina dismissed the death sentence awarded to her by a court in Dhaka on Monday as "biased and politically motivated", Dhaka has cited the verdict to increase pressure on New Delhi for the extradition of the deposed prime minister of Bangladesh from India.

The interim government headed by Muhammad Yunus stated that if any foreign nation provided shelter to Sheikh Hasina and Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, after they were convicted and sentenced for "crimes against humanity", it would be tantamount to an "unfriendly gesture".

"We will request India to immediately hand over the two fugitives to the authorities of Bangladesh, fulfilling the obligations under the bilateral extradition treaty," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the interim government in Dhaka stated, sending a clear message to New Delhi.

New Delhi has been cautious in its reaction. "As a close neighbour, India remains committed to the best interests of the people of Bangladesh, including in peace, democracy, inclusion and stability in that country," the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi stated, adding that it had taken note of the ICT (Bangladesh) verdicts.

"We will always engage constructively with all stakeholders to that end," Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, said, avoiding any comment on Dhaka's request for the extradition.

A source in New Delhi, however, stressed that the government was unlikely to yield to pressure from Dhaka to extradite Hasina to Bangladesh, where her life might be at risk.

"The verdict announced against me by a rigged tribunal, established and presided over by an unelected government with no democratic mandate, is biased and politically motivated," Hasina said in a statement.

The issue of Hasina's pending extradition from India to Bangladesh may come up again during the meeting between National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Khalilur Rahman, his counterpart in the interim government of the neighbouring country, in New Delhi this week.

Doval has invited Rahman to attend the meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave to be held in New Delhi.

Doval and Rahman are likely to hold bilateral talks on the sidelines of the CSC meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday.

DIPLOMATIC TENSION

- Dhaka says New Delhi has an obligation under a treaty to extradite Hasina, and hosting her is an 'unfriendly gesture'.
- India avoids making any commitment on extradition, with officials concerned about Hasina's safety given the political nature of the charges.
- The extradition issue may surface again during the upcoming meeting between NSA Ajit Doval and his Bangladeshi counterpart, Khalilur Rahman.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Actors Wynn Thomas and Tom Cruise pose with their honorary Oscars during the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences 16th Governors Awards in Los Angeles on Sunday. REUTERS

Thousands in Manila hold second day of anti-graft protests

▸ Over 2,00,000 protesters turned out on Monday for the second day of an anti-graft rally in the Philippines, demanding accountability over accusations of corruption in flood-mitigation projects, Reuters reports from Manila.

The controversy, which has hammered investor confidence, is blamed by some analysts as a factor behind the third quarter's four-year low in economic growth as public spending slowed. Many demonstrators set up tents in which to stay until Tuesday, the end of the protest, which has drawn over 6,00,000 people since it began on Sunday, organised by Iglesia Ni Cristo, a church of 2 million members, known for bloc voting. "Expose the deeds of evil," and "Rally for transparency and democracy," read placards carried by protesters. Both days' rallies were largely peaceful, though participants expressed frustration at inquiries they described as ineffective into irregularities in key infrastructure projects. "We are calling for the government to carry out a real, sincere, investigation and not cover up for anyone involved in this anomaly," said 60-year-old Freddie Beley.

China warns US, South Korea

▸ China on Monday warned that its view of the US–South Korea alliance would "change" if Washington and Seoul shifted their strategic focus toward trying to contain Beijing following their deal to jointly produce nuclear submarine, PTI reports from Beijing.

The strong reaction by China came after a US naval official said nuclear-powered submarines to be built by South Korea with American support would be used to counter China. Reacting to the remarks by US Admiral Daryl Caudle, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said, "We hope the ROK and the US will prudently handle the matter."

Harsh sanctions on nations trading with Russia: US

New legislation targets countries buying Russian oil

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, PTI

US President Donald Trump has warned that any country doing business with Russia will be "very severely sanctioned", as his administration and Republican lawmakers push ahead with legislation targeting Moscow.

Responding to questions from reporters about whether it was time for Congress to pass measures aimed at pressuring Russia and President Vladimir Putin, Trump said, "I hear they're doing that, and that's okay with me." "They're passing legislation... the Republicans are putting in legislation... very tough sanctioning... on any country doing business with Russia. They may add Iran to that... I suggested it," he said.

"So any country that does business with Russia will be very severely sanctioned. We may add Iran to the formula," Trump reiterated. The Trump administration has imposed 50% tariffs on India, including 25% levies for its purchases of Russian energy.

Russian President Vladimir Putin with US President Donald Trump in Anchorage, Alaska. AFP FILE

A bill introduced by Senator Lindsey Graham has proposed a 500 per cent tariff on secondary purchases and the reselling of Russian oil. The proposal has near-unanimous backing in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Graham and Senator Richard Blumenthal have jointly introduced the Sanctioning Russia Act of 2025, which seeks to impose secondary tariffs and sanctions on "countries that continue to fund Putin's barbaric war in Ukraine". The proposed legislation has 85 co-sponsors in the Senate.

"President Trump and his team have made a powerful move, implementing a new approach to end this bloodbath between Russia and Ukraine... However, the ultimate hammer to bring about the end of this war will be tariffs against countries, like China, India and Brazil, that prop up Putin's war machine by purchasing cheap Russian oil and gas," Graham and Blumenthal said in a joint statement in July.

Trump open to talks with Maduro

WASHINGTON, AFP

Donald Trump suggested Sunday that future talks with Venezuelan counterpart Nicolas Maduro could be on the table, as a regional US military buildup has whipped up tensions between the nations.

The US president spoke after Washington further upped the ante by announcing plans to designate as a terrorist group a cartel that it claims Maduro runs.

"We may be having some discussions with Maduro, and we'll see how that turns out," Trump told reporters in Florida, adding: "They would like to talk." Pressed for more details, he replied: "Venezuela would like to talk. What does it mean? You tell me, I don't know... I'd talk to anybody."

Earlier Sunday, the US State Department said it would classify Cartel de los Soles (Cartel of the Suns) — which it claims is headed by Maduro — as a foreign terrorist organization (FTO).

"Cartel de los Soles by and with other designated FTOs including Tren de Aragua and the Sinaloa Cartel are responsible for terrorist violence throughout our hemisphere as well as for trafficking drugs into the United States and Europe," Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in a statement.

The designation, effective from November 24, follows a huge US military mobilization in the Caribbean which Washington states is necessary to prevent drug smuggling into the United States.

But Caracas claims it is really a ploy to overthrow its leftist president Maduro, who the United States considers an illegitimate leader and a drug lord — a charge that he denies. Rubio reiterated an established US stance Sunday that Cartel de los Soles is led by Maduro and other high-ranking officials "who have corrupted Venezuela's military, intelligence, legislature, and judiciary."

"Neither Maduro nor his cronies represent Venezuela's legitimate government," he added. The US Treasury in July announced sanctions against Cartel de los Soles after it was classified as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist entity for allegedly providing "material support" to other Latin American crime groups.

Gunmen kidnap 25 schoolgirls in Nigeria

LAGOS, AFP: Gunmen from a criminal gang kidnapped 25 people and killed a staff member in an early morning raid on a northwestern Nigerian girls' secondary school on Monday, police said.

The attack comes more than a decade after 276 girls were abducted from Chibok in the restive northeastern Borno state and sparked international outcry and rallied people around the "#BringBackOurGirls" global social media campaign.

Since then, there has been a string of other abductions involving school children across the northern parts of Nigeria.

Police on Monday said the gang, armed with "sophisticated weapons, shooting sporadically, stormed the Government Girls Comprehensive Secondary School" in Kebbi state at about 4:00 am (0300 GMT).

Police were deployed, but "unfortunately, the suspected bandits had already scaled through the fence of the school and abducted twenty-five students from their hostel to an unknown destination," police said in a statement.

A man watches an aerobatic display team during the Dubai Airshow on Monday. REUTERS

Man jailed over Grande incident

▸ A Singapore court sentenced an Australian man to nine days in jail on Monday for rushing film star Ariana Grande at the Asian premiere of "Wicked: For Good" last week, AFP reports from Singapore.

Grande and other stars were attending the opening night of the film at Universal Studios in the city-state when the man, identified by court papers as 26-year-old Johnson Wen, jumped a barricade and put his arm around the actor. Video clips, which have gone viral online, show the man wrapping his arm around a shocked Grande before jumping up and down and smilingly waving to the crowd. Grande's co-star Cynthia Erivo then rushes to her defence and the man is grabbed by security guards and dumped back over the barricade. Wen was arrested hours later and charged with "being a public nuisance".

Renewable energy unstoppable: UN

▸ Urging parties to work on social justice and climate action simultaneously, UN General Assembly's 80th Session President Annalena Baerbock on Monday stressed the importance of renewable energy and termed it as unstoppable, PTI reports from Belem (Brazil).

During her speech at the high-level segment in the ongoing UN COP30 Climate Summit here, Baerbock called upon all to work collectively with trust on each other for faster and effective goals in the climate action works. UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell, however, expressed displeasure over the pace of the ongoing negotiations and their outcome compared to the change in the environment and "real economy".

Trump urges Republicans to support release of Epstein files

WASHINGTON, AFP: US President Donald Trump said on Sunday he backed lawmakers' efforts to release more files related to sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, despite previous opposition to the measure.

"House Republicans should vote to release the Epstein files, because we have nothing to hide," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. The 79-year-old Republican has accused Democrats of pushing an "Epstein hoax" after emails emerged in which the disgraced financier suggested Trump "knew about the girls."

Some critics have accused Trump of trying to conceal details about his own alleged wrongdoing -- something the president denies -- by looking to block the vote.

The issue has divided his typically loyal Republican party and driven a rift between Trump and some of his closest allies within his Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement.

Over the weekend, Trump withdrew his endorsement for Congresswoman and MAGA stalwart Marjorie Taylor Greene's 2026 re-election bid.

Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson has said he would hold a vote this week on a bid to force the Justice Department to release the remaining files relating to the Epstein probe.

Ukraine to buy 100 Rafale warplanes from France

PARIS, REUTERS

Ukraine will obtain up to 100 French-made Rafale warplanes over the next 10 years under a deal signed on Monday, both countries said, as Kyiv seeks to bolster its defences against Russia's invasion.

Air defence systems, munitions and drones were also included in the letter of intent signed by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron in front of one of the jets and both their flags. "It will be the greatest air defence, one of the greatest in the world," Zelenskyy told reporters at the event at France's Villacoublay military airport. Shares in Dassault, which makes the jets, rose sharply on the news and were 8% higher at 1245 GMT.

Emmanuel Macron and Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Paris on Monday. AP/PTI

The announcement comes after a surge of Russian attacks on Ukraine in recent weeks, and Moscow's reports of ground advances in the southeastern Zaporizhzhia region. The letter of intent was a political commitment, rather than a purchase deal, which would come later, the Elysee said. The aim was to finance it with EU programmes and the planned use of frozen Russian assets, which the EU still has to agree. It covered new material rather than transfers from French stocks, the Elysee added.

"We're planning Rafales, 100 Rafales - that's huge. That's what's needed for the regeneration of the Ukrainian military," Macron told LCI TV.

2 Indian tools among finalists of Global Edtech Prize

LONDON, PTI: One of the largest free online test preparation offers and a platform codifying best practice for greater accessibility were among the Indian finalists of the inaugural Global EdTech Prize.

While Gurukul from Avanti Fellows in India made the final three in the Non-Profits category, LEAD Learning System from India's LEAD Group made its mark in the Majors category at the World Schools Summit at Yasmina British Academy in Abu Dhabi on Sunday.

US and Israeli soldiers convene at the Civil Military Coordination Centre, the US-led centre overseeing the implementation of Trump's plan to end the war in Gaza, in Kiryat Gat, Israel, on Monday. REUTERS

Don't let support turn into spoon-feeding

SAHANA PRASAD

"Convert this to a lower triangular matrix," I said. "We just wrote down the definition of a lower triangular matrix." I waited a few minutes, only to be met with blank stares — and a few that felt almost hostile. What? You expect us to try? Why should we, when there are so many online tools that can give us the answer? Just let us use our smartphones. Their eyes said all of this without a word.

Teachers have a natural urge to see children succeed. They clear their path, supply resources, and sometimes, in an eagerness to help them flourish, they do the work for them. Neatly prepared answers, fully solved math problems, condensed chapter notes — they provide it all. That's spoon-feeding. But in the process, we often lose sight of something essential: they still have to hold the spoon.

Active engagement

Active engagement and ownership of one's learning matter more than we sometimes admit. A student who is passively spoon-fed may score well on a test but may struggle in a simple job interview. Quick fixes create long-term dependency. I often find myself saying, "It's your life, your career.

Don't focus only on the next exam — focus on understanding and application." They must grasp the handle and guide the spoon to their lips. Even if it's messy, at least try. Learn at least a little more on your own than what is taught.

Parents and students sometimes wonder, Why struggle at all? "This is the era of immediate information," many parents feel. "Why stress a child when a quick Google search — or a parent — can clarify anything in seconds?" Students, too, feel that reading long chapters is unnecessary when a GenAI tool can summarise them. Why solve practice questions when ChatGPT can give the answers for submission?

But when we remove struggles and make it easy, we unintentionally signal that learning is supposed to be easy — and that they never need to navigate challenges independently. They start waiting for the next spoonful rather than developing their own learning strategies. Over time, this can lead to a dislike of the subject, weak problem-solving skills, and a fear of failure. And when they eventually face situations where no one can give them the answer — at university, at work, in life — they feel helpless and unprepared.

Creative guidance

"It doesn't mean leaving children to figure everything out alone," says Divya Bhat, a counsellor at a well-known university. "Our role as educators and parents must shift from being providers of knowledge to facilitators of learning."

Nirmala Rao, a history teacher, puts it into practice: instead of simply narrating events, she asks, "The Indian freedom struggle can be viewed from different perspectives — what's yours?"

A simple question like "Why is time-series data invaluable in econometrics?" can open the door to deeper exploration. The goal is to create learning spaces where questions are valued and exploration is encouraged.

Parents, especially once children finish school, often step back from their learning as long as attendance and grades look fine. But they can still be supportive partners — not on-demand answer keys. Even casual conversations about new projects at work or recent trends can help children connect ideas and build confidence in learning on their own, even with the help of the internet. "Let's not celebrate only the grades," says Bhavana, whose son has just begun a commerce course. "Let's appreciate their effort, perseverance, and curiosity, too."

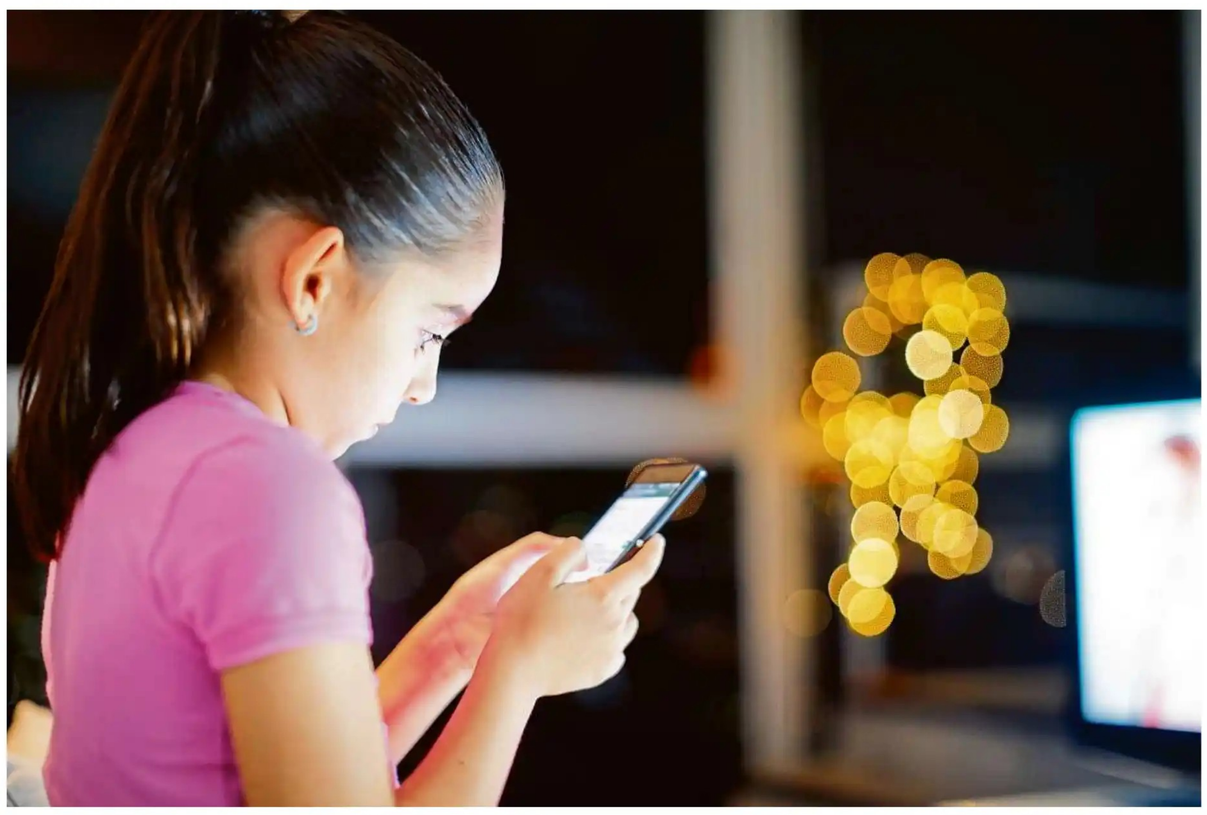
Should our children know all the answers? No. We should help them grow into adults who know how to find the answers. We want individuals who are curious, resilient, and confident in their ability to learn anything. I try to resist the urge to hand over the solution the moment a student is stuck. They might remain stuck for a few minutes — or a few classes — but most eventually figure it out, especially with subtle hints. Holding the spoon may be messy; there will be spills and frustrations.

But by letting them think and try, we offer them something far greater than a single, perfect answer. We give them the strength and skill to reach — and enjoy — a better meal, even if it takes a little effort.

(The author is a Bengaluru-based academic)

From screens to senses

The aim is not to deny technology to children but to leverage its use toward better learning and life choices, writes Alvina Clara



As the use of social media proliferates and technology becomes a constant companion in the Digital Age, children are more adept than ever at accessing information, entertainment, and social connections with a few taps. As a result, traditional activities such as reading, writing, art, or crafts seem mundane to children.

In most cases, children are glued to the screen for long stretches. When the device is snatched, they display withdrawal symptoms such as agitation, irritability, and aggressive reactions. Some even mimic gaming slang or robotic speech, blurring lines between AI and real-life interaction.

One of the most harmful effects of excessive screen time is Computer Vision Syndrome (CVS), which can lead to severe digital eye strain, headaches, blurred vision, and dry eyes from prolonged focus and infrequent blinking. In addition, poor posture causes neck, shoulder, and back pain. Mood and mental health issues, sleep disruption and alteration of sleep patterns due to constant exposure to blue light before bedtime are other issues.

While children cannot avoid screens entirely, they can be channelled into activities that nurture the body, mind, and character. Here are a few thoughtful strategies to reclaim their focus and guide them toward healthier, more engaging pursuits.

- **Set screen-time boundaries:** Aim for a manageable daily limit of 1–2 hours. Conduct control checks and ensure they access only quality, age-appropriate content. Set aside device-free zones and times during the day, especially during meals and before bedtime, to encourage personal conversations and interactions among members of the household.
- **Prioritise exercise and outdoor activity:** Encourage regular movement through exercise, such as jogging, walking, cycling, dancing, aerobics, or skating. Plan family picnics, activities and sports matches on weekends to model an active lifestyle.
- **Foster creativity and learning through offline pursuits:** Coax your kids to read, draw, colour, and craft as enjoyable alternatives to screens. Enrol children in classes or workshops (arts, music, sports) that align with their interests. Whenever there are activities in malls/educational institutes, workshops for kids, or learning sessions, take your children. They'll learn something new and stay productively engaged.
- **Develop a sense of responsibility with household chores:** Encourage kids to help with everyday tasks, such as setting the table, washing the dishes, watering the garden, or organising their cupboard and study table racks. Contributing to household chores from a young age nurtures responsibility and strengthens a child's sense of belonging in the family.
- **Participate in diverse activities:** Encourage your kids to try swimming, painting, sports, music, or dance classes based on their interests. Early exposure to a variety of activities helps them discover their strengths and identify their talents. When they reach the right age, these hobbies can become meaningful stress-busters and platforms to hone their abilities.
- **Volunteering:** Whenever volunteering opportunities arise, encourage older kids to join organisations such as NGOs or religious groups. Volunteering encourages a service-oriented mindset, builds empathy, and fosters growth in teamwork, management, and leadership. Diverse interactions with people from all walks of life broaden their understanding and perspectives on thinking.
- **Guide digital literacy:** Guide children to cyber safety measures such as using strong passwords, keeping privacy settings active, and staying vigilant against scams and phishing. Promote responsible participation in digital spaces while safeguarding their security and well-being.
- **Inculcate morals and values:** Expose children to virtue-based or moral education resources to help them navigate ethical choices and resist negative influences. With social media increasingly shaping behaviour — where they encounter foul language, violence, and harmful content — encourage them to read moral science books or attend moral education classes so they imbibe good values from a young age. When they face dilemmas in adolescence about whether to tread the right/wrong path or to resist peer pressure, these virtues will serve as a compass to guide their decisions.
- **Model balanced tech use as adults:** Demonstrate healthy technology habits as a family, such as mindful use of devices for study or research. Strictly limit screen time during meals or sleep, and engage in meaningful offline activities, such as exercise or hobbies, to model healthy practices.

Children are growing up faster than ever because of the pace and reach of technology. Proactive parental awareness of what their kids have access to is essential. Although complete control isn't possible, guiding them toward meaningful activities and moral education helps instil good values early. The aim is not to deny technology but to leverage its use toward positive development, cohesive communities, and a joyful, well-balanced life.

BULLETIN BOARD

Single girl child scholarship - 2025

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is offering the CBSE Merit Scholarship Scheme for Single Girl Child 2025 to support meritorious female students pursuing Class 11 and 12 in CBSE schools, who are the only child to their parents. Eligible students must have scored at least 70% in Class 10 and be enrolled in a CBSE-affiliated school with tuition fees not exceeding Rs 3,000 per month (Rs 6,000 for NRIs). Selected students will receive Rs 1,000 per month for up to two years. Last date: November 20. Details:https://t.ly/_Fvst

Non-technical internship

The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, is offering the NeGD Non-Technical Winter Internship 2025 to graduation or post-graduation students enrolled in a recognised Indian university, with a score above 60% and interested in programme management, communication, and capacity building. Selected interns will receive a stipend of Rs 15,000/month, mentorship, and a certificate upon completion. Last date: November 21. Details: https://t.ly/VRYa7

Human resource internship

DevTown is hiring human resources interns who can work from home. Students with knowledge of MS Excel and proficiency in written and spoken English can apply by December 11. The stipend is Rs 4,000-5,000/month. Apply at: https://tinyurl.com/yn4c56fy.

Graphic design internship

Jobs Territory is hiring graphic design interns who can work from home. Students with knowledge of Adobe After Effects, Adobe Creative Suite, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Photoshop Lightroom CC, Adobe Premiere Pro, CorelDRAW, UI & UX Design, and Video Editing can apply by December 11. The stipend is Rs 5,000/month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/bACxo.

Marketing internship

Ezeconsult LLP is hiring marketing interns in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of social media marketing, email marketing, and effective communication ability can apply by December 11. The stipend is Rs 5,000-10,000 / month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/mLLbZ.

Business development internship

Tulot Tech Labs is hiring business development (Sales) interns in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of client interaction, client relationship, and customer acquisition can apply by November 20. The stipend is Rs 12,000-20,000/month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/JOINQ.

When the stage becomes a leadership classroom

P JOHN J KENNEDY

We live in an era shaped by the theories of corporate leadership from successful business figures. Their vast achievements often seem to prove they hold all the answers. Their insights are valuable, certainly, but it's worth asking: Are leadership lessons found only in boardrooms and biographies? Some of the most powerful teachings come from everyday moments we often overlook — and sometimes from unexpected places. In many ways, daily life is a live classroom in leadership, if we choose to pay attention.

One of the most surprising teachers in this classroom is the stand-up comedian. Watch a skilled comedian closely. Their work rests on three simple but essential abilities: connecting with people, communicating clearly, and bouncing back when things don't go as planned.

A comedian can win over a room, shift its mood, and create a shared experience within minutes. That's influence — not through authority, but through genuine connection. What makes comedians especially interesting is their adaptability. They read the room, sense the audience's energy, and adjust their tone or material instantly. If a joke fails, they recover on the spot. In leadership terms, this is nothing more than being responsive and flexible — something many leaders struggle with.

Another quality that stands out is authenticity. Great comedians talk openly about their own lives — their mistakes, insecurities, awkward encounters. The audience relates because honesty builds trust. This is similar to what effective leaders do when they acknowledge what they don't know or share what they've learned. Real vulnerability, when sincere, strengthens credibility.

Creativity, curiosity and preparation

Humour, too, is often underestimated. It can ease tension, build rapport, and turn a difficult conversation into a constructive one. Workplaces where humour feels natural are often places where people feel safe to think creatively and take initiative. Some well-known business leaders use this instinctively. Richard Branson brings humour and adventure into his leadership style, inspiring teams to be bold. Jack Ma uses wit and playfulness to spark imagination in his organisation. Their examples show that humour and leadership support each other more than we think.

The arts offer more than entertainment — they provide models for how to think and work. Studies have shown that art forms such as jazz and painting can foster adaptability and creative problem-solving. A jazz musician balances structure with improvisation, just as a leader must do when facing uncertainty. A painter observes, experiments, and refines — skills that apply directly to leadership.

History also offers insights. A Deloitte study of Leonardo da Vinci's work found that his brilliance came from combining art and science. He explored, experimented, and connected ideas from different fields because he was endlessly curious. Today's leaders need a similar blend: clear thinking paired with an open, creative mind. Qualities like empathy, humour, and authenticity — often treated as secondary — are actually central to effective leadership. Teams led by empathetic leaders tend to show more trust, cooperation, and confidence. Comedians understand this naturally; their work succeeds only when they sense emotions and respond to them.

Preparation is another key lesson. What looks like effortless performance — on stage or in leadership — is usually the result of long hours of practice, repeated failures, and steady improvement. There are no shortcuts. Strong leaders, like seasoned performers, keep learning from every challenge.

So the idea that only corporations hold leadership wisdom is simply not accurate. Leadership appears in every act of creativity, empathy, observation, and courage. Whether on a comedy stage, in an art studio, or in a jazz session, the arts offer valuable lessons in leading with clarity and authenticity.

At its heart, leadership is less about giving orders and more about connecting with people. It involves noticing what's happening around you, listening carefully, and responding thoughtfully. At a time when many of us are fixated on metrics and models, it may help to look up from our spreadsheets and watch the world perform. Sometimes the best leadership guidance comes not from a CEO in a suit, but from a comedian holding a microphone.

(The author is an independent writer with 35 years of experience in leadership)

Suggestions? Feedback? Queries?

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Study reveals benefits of dropping unrealistic goals

Though many people may benefit from setting life goals, new research led by Curtin University has revealed that working towards unachievable targets could, in fact, hurt overall well-being, and knowing when to abandon or change your goals may be just as important as persistence.

The research, published in *Nature Human Behaviour*, examined 235 studies with more than 1,400 findings across multiple disciplines, including psychology, health, and social sciences, on how people adjust their goals when faced with obstacles.

The paper is titled "A meta-analytic review and conceptual model of the antecedents and outcomes of goal adjustment in response to striving difficulties."

The study found that letting go of unattainable goals was linked to reduced stress, anxiety, and depression, while shifting to new goals restored well-being and life satisfaction.

Lead researcher Dr Hugh Riddell, from the Curtin School of Population Health, said the study showed quitting isn't always a sign of weakness.

"Sticking with impossible goals can take a real toll, with previous research suggesting it can lead to higher stress, poorer well-being and even physical health costs such as illness," Dr Riddell said.

"But letting go and — crucially — reengaging with new goals was found to restore purpose and well-being.

"Changing how you pursue your goals by being flexible rather than rigid could help people stay resilient and still have a focus in their lives, even if it has changed."

Dr Riddell said the review revealed that different predictors, such as personality traits, coping styles, social support, and life circumstances, can influence whether someone is more likely to let go, reengage, or adapt their goals.

"It isn't a one-size-fits-all approach, as different people take different paths and a wide range of things can all impact how we approach our goals in life," Dr Riddell said.

"For example, someone's motivation, age, stress management, strength of relationships, experiences growing up, health status and more were all found to play a part in how we approach our goals.

"This study essentially distils all the previous research down to a conceptual roadmap charting what kinds of things might contribute to adjusting one's goals and how this might benefit a person."

Dr Riddell said the next step in the research is to understand better when it is the right time to stick to a plan or change it.

"Finding out when exactly people should stick with their goals or change course, without giving up too early, is really the next piece of the puzzle," Dr Riddell said.

-PHYS.ORG

India's coffee output set to see marginal growth in FY26

Irregular rainfall, long dry summer periods impacting production

MAHESH KULKARNI
CHIKKAMAGALURU, DHNS

Coffee production in India may witness a marginal growth of around 3% over last year's final estimate of 3.63 lakh metric tonnes, according to the Karnataka Planters Association (KPA). The harvesting season will begin next month in the growing regions of Chikkamagaluru, Hassan and Kodagu.

For 2025-26, the Coffee Board of India has projected bean production at 4,03,000 metric tonnes. While Arabica production is pegged at 1,18,125 metric tonnes, Robusta output is projected at 2,84,875 metric tonnes. However, the KPA estimates it to be marginally higher, with climate change impacting the plantations. KPA estimates the Arabica output at around 1-1.10 lakh tonnes and Robusta output between 2.6 lakh tonnes and 2.70 lakh tonnes, for 2025-26. During the post-blossom estimates for the current year, the Coffee Board has projected Arabica production at 1,18,125 metric tonnes and Robusta output at 2,84,875 metric tonnes. Last year, the final production stood at 3,63,500 metric tonnes, comprising 1,05,700 metric tonnes of Arabica and 2,57,800 metric tonnes of Robusta.

From left: M Salman Baseer, Vice-Chairman, Karnataka Planters Association; Arvind Rao, Chairman, KPA; Ajoy Thipaiah, President, UPASI; and Sahadev Balakrishna, Chairman, UPASI Coffee Committee, address a press conference in Chikkamagaluru on Monday

While the Coffee Board is yet to come out with its post-monsoon estimates, the KPA's assessment based on the feedback from member-growers does not reveal a rosy picture, this year.

"The impact of climate change on the plantation industry in Karnataka is significant and serious. Global warming with unpredictable rainfall is causing extreme drought, landslides and soil erosion, damaging crops, depleting soil and plant health, survival, reducing crop yields, and is a threat to long-term sustainability of coffee estates," said KPA Chairman Arvind Rao.

According to KPA, over the last decade, Indian coffee-growing regions have witnessed irregular rainfall, and long dry summer periods that led to a drop in production. Despite the area under coffee cultivation going up in both traditional and non-traditional regions, the bean production has not grown proportionately. Arabica coffee, which is the most-preferred variety globally for its rich aroma, is highly-dependent on favourable climatic conditions, and due to a white stem borer attack that occurs due to erratic climatic conditions in the growing regions of Karnataka.

The global coffee sector is currently defined by price surges, driven by tightening supply due to severe weather disruptions across major growing regions. The coffee production scenario for Karnataka in the 2024-25 marketing year (October 2024-September 2025) is characterised in Robusta production, but volatility in Arabica output, is primarily due to the impact of erratic weather patterns," said Rao. Heavy rains between May and September, have damaged the crop in the growing regions of Chikkamagalur, Hassan, and Kodagu, he said.

Karnataka contributes about 70% of India's total coffee output, at 2,56,000 metric tonnes. The Coffee Board, in its post-blossom estimates, projected the state's output at 2,80,000 metric tonnes for 2025-26, a growth of 9.5% over last year.

The KPA is holding its 67th AGM in Chikkamagaluru on Tuesday, which will be inaugurated by Energy Minister KJ George.

Infosys launches AI-first GCC Model

BENGALURU, DHNS: Homegrown IT services major Infosys on Monday launched its AI-first GCC (Global Capability Center) Model, a specialised offering that accelerates the setup and transformation of GCCs into Artificial Inteligence-powered hubs for innovation and growth.

The Bengaluru-headquartered company said the new offering empowers enterprises to reimagine their GCCs as strategic assets that drive innovation, agility, and competitive advantage in an AI-first world.

With more than 100 engagements with local GCC entities across industries, including setting up and managing GCCs for enterprises such as Lufthansa Systems, zooplus, and Danske Bank, Infosys' new offering aims to address the challenges businesses face when scaling or transforming their GCCs.

The AI-first GCC Model provides an end-to-end path from comprehensive setup support to scalable talent strategies and operational readiness, while enabling AI-led transformation with production-grade agents and a unified platform fabric, the company said.

Infosys' new GCC Model brings together Infosys Agentic Foundry for building and scaling reliable production-grade AI agents, EdgeVerve AI Next as the unified platform to run applied and agentic AI at enterprise scale, and Infosys Topaz, to infuse AI-first services and solutions across the GCC lifecycle.

India's trade deficit at record high on 200% gold import surge

US tariffs drag outbound shipments; exports dip 12%

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's trade deficit rose to a record high of $41.68 billion in October, due to a sharp jump in import of gold and silver, even as outbound shipments were impacted due to high US tariffs and decline in oil price, official data showed on Monday.

The value of gold imports surged to $14.72 billion in October, from $4.92 billion recorded in the same month last year, recording a jump of around 200%. Silver import surged from $0.43 billion in October 2024, to $2.72 billion in October 2025.

Gold and silver together accounted for over $12 billion surge in the trade deficit during the month under review, when compared with the same month last year.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said gold imports surged due to festive and pent-up demand. The surge in import bill was partly due to rise in prices of the yellow metal.

The October trade deficit is sharply higher than $26.2 billion recorded in the same month last year. In September, it stood at $32.15 billion, which was the highest in 13 months. The October trade gap is the highest ever.

India's merchandise imports surged by 16.63% year-on-year, to $76.06 billion in October. However, exports dipped by 11.8% to $34.38 billion during the month under review.

"Our exports have fallen for the first time this year," Agrawal said, adding the high base effect, lower prices of petroleum products and US tariffs hit India's outbound shipments during the month.

TRADE WINDS

- Value of gold imports surges to **$14.72 b** in Oct 2025, from **$4.92 b** in the same month in 2024
- Silver import up from **$0.43 b** in Oct 2024, to **$2.72 b** in Oct 2025
- Engineering goods, petroleum products, gems & jewellery, apparel & textiles, organic & inorganic chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and plastic goods segments witness noticeable contraction in exports
- Oct trade deficit sharply higher than **$26.2 b** recorded in the same month last year
- Electronic goods, meat, dairy & poultry products, marine products, cashew and coffee drive merchandise exports growth in Oct 2025

Exports to the US fell by 9% to $6.31 billion in October from $6.91 billion recorded in October 2024. However, on a sequential basis, it was higher. In September, India's exports to the US stood at $5.47 billion.

Key segments such as engineering goods, petroleum products, gems and jewellery, apparel and textiles, organic and inorganic chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and plastic goods witnessed noticeable contraction in exports. Major drivers of merchandise exports growth in October 2025 include electronic goods, meat, dairy & poultry products, marine products, cashew and coffee.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) president SC Ralhan said the contraction in India's exports mirrors the broader global economic slowdown, marked by geopolitical uncertainties, subdued demand in multiple major markets, and persistent volatility in commodity prices.

Cumulative merchandise exports during April-October 2025 stood at $254.25 billion, marginally higher than $252.66 billion recorded in the corresponding period of last year.

India's total exports (merchandise and services combined) stood at $72.89 billion in October, which was lower than $73.39 billion recorded in the same month last year. On the other hand, total imports jumped by 14.87% to $94.70 billion during this period.

Engineering goods exports fell 16.71% year-on-year to $9.37 billion in October.

Nod for 17 projects with Rs 7k cr spend for electronic components mfg

Cumulative projected output of projects pegged at Rs 65,111 cr

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre on Monday approved 17 projects under the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), entailing an investment of Rs 7,172 crore to boost electronics component manufacturing. Announcing this, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said the cumulative projected production of these projects would be Rs 65,111 crore, and they are expected to create 11,808 direct jobs.

The new set of approved applications includes that of Jabil, Aequs, ASUX Safety, AT and S, Ehoome IoT, Hi-Q Electronics, UnoMinda, and Zetwerk. Other applicants in the list are Meena Electrotech, MicroPack, Rakon, Sahasra, Secure Meters, Sierra Circuits, Syrma Mobility, and TE Connectivity.

The approved units are spread across eight states — Karnataka, Goa, Gujarat, MP, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, UP, and AP — and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

"ECMS is unlocking the next phase of value-chain integration, from devices to components and sub-assemblies, ensuring India's electronics sector reaches $500 billion in manufacturing value by 2030-31," Vaishnaw said. To clinch long-term success, India will have to focus on building design teams, ensuring six sigma quality standards in all its products, and partnering with 'swadeshi' suppliers in projects, the minister said.

The components to be manufactured would serve key sectors, including smartphones, IT hardware, wearables, telecom, EVs, industrial electronics, defence, medical electronics, and renewable energy — all essential building blocks of the new economy.

These projects include the manufacture of camera modules, multi-layer PCBs, enclosures for electronic devices, connectors, oscillators, and optical transceivers.

In the first tranche announced on October 27, 2025, there are seven applications with a total investment of Rs 5,532 crore and the potential to create 5,000 new jobs. The applicants included Kaynes, SRF, Syrma SGS, and Ascent Circuits.

The 17 projects greenlit in the second tranche bring the total projects approved under the ECMS scheme to 24. During the five-month application window, from May 1, 2025, to September 30, 2025, the scheme attracted 249 applications, almost doubling the initial estimates of investments, production, and direct jobs.

The second tranche includes a wide array of components and sub-assemblies, such as India's first-ever Optical Transceiver (SFP) manufacturing facilities by Jabil Circuit India and Zetchem Supply Chain Services; oscillators for precise timing applications in communication devices, computers, and industrial electronics by Rakon India; and enclosures for laptops and smartwatches by Aequs Consumer Products.

Microsoft India profit up 39% at Rs 1,245 crore in FY25

NEW DELHI, PTI: IT giant Microsoft India has reported a 38.66% rise in profit to Rs 1,245.18 crore for the financial year ended March 31, 2025, according to its regulatory filing shared by market intelligence firm Tofler on Monday.

The company had posted a profit of Rs 898 crore in FY2024. Its revenue from operations increased by 27.44% to Rs 28,754.77 crore during FY25, from Rs 22,561.91 crore, a year ago. The total revenue surged 28 per cent to Rs 29,303 crore. "The company's total expenses for the fiscal were reported as Rs 27,624 crore," Tofler said.

Apex court to hear PIL for probe against ADAG

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear a PIL by former government secretary EAS Sarma, seeking a court-monitored probe into the alleged large-scale bank fraud perpetrated by Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group (ADAG), its Chairman Anil Ambani, Reliance Communications (RCom), and related entities.

Anil Ambani

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, on behalf of Sarma, sought an urgent hearing before a bench led by CJI BR Gavai. "There is bank fraud worth Rs 20,000 crore. We are seeking an independent court-monitored probe. This is about a large corporate group," the counsel said. The CJI agreed to list the matter.

The plea sought directions to constitute an SIT comprising CBI and ED officers for a time-bound investigation into the alleged bank fraud.The petition claimed, RCom and its subsidiaries, Reliance Infratel and Reliance Telecom, had received loans of Rs 31,580 crore between 2013 and 2017 from a consortium of banks led by SBI.

All IT work will involve AI by 2030: Gartner

BENGALURU, DHNS: Almost all IT work will involve AI by 2030. About 75% will be done by humans augmented with AI, and 25% by AI alone, according to business and technology insights firm Gartner. This means that organisations need to focus on a combination of AI readiness and human readiness to ensure the right balance to achieve value from AI, Gartner said.

The Gartner IT Symposium/Xpo is being held in Kochi. Gartner's Distinguished VP Analyst Arun Chadrasekaran said the firm has been guiding CIOs and IT executives on their AI journeys for many years. "In 2023, we showed them how to shape their AI ambition. Last year, at the IT Symposium/Xpo, we explained how to pace themselves in the AI outcomes race. This year, we're mapping out the right path for them to take, so they can go all-in on AI value," he added.

Gartner analysts said that organisations' skill development plans should go beyond training people in new skills.

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Sr. Divisional Engineer, South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043 invites E-tender for the following works before **15.00 hrs.** on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at **15.30 hrs. Sl.No.**-1. **Tender No.: T-PUB-GRC-2025-418, Date: 14.11.2025. Description of work:** Outsourcing of Colony Sanitation, office cleaning in South Colony of South Eastern Railway, Headquarters, Garden Reach, Kolkata. **Tender Value:** ₹ 2,77,65,254.16. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,88,800 (MSE firms are entitled to claim exemption from payment of Earnest Money). **Date of opening:** 08.12.2025. **Sl.No.**-2. **Tender No.: T-PUB-GRC-2025-417, Date: 13.11.2025. Description of work:** Horticulture zonal work for maintenance of various gardens and colony subject to the costing of each such works not exceeding Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees-Five lakh) for the period 2 (two) years i.e. 01.07.2025 to 30.06.2026 and 01.07.2026 to 30.06.2027 in North colony of Garden Reach complex, South Eastern Railway under the control of SSE/W/ Horticulture/ Garden Reach, South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach. **Tender Value:** ₹74,15,512. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 1,48,300. **Date of opening:** 05.12.2025. **Sl.No.**-3. **Tender No.: T-PUB-GRC-2025-420, Date: 14.11.2025. Description of work:** Horticulture zonal work for maintenance of various gardens and colony subject to the costing of each such works not exceeding Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five lakh) for the period 2 (two) years i.e. 01.07.2025 to 30.06.2026 and 01.07.2026 to 30.06.2027 in South colony of Garden Reach Complex, South Eastern Railway under the control of SSE/W/Horticulture/ Garden Reach, South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach. **Tender Value:** ₹ 47,42,296. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 94,900. **Date of opening:** 08.12.2025. **Cost of Tender documents:** ₹ 0 (for Sl.No. 1 to 3 each). **Completion Period of the work:** 24 (twentyfour) months (for Sl.No. 1 to 3 each). Any change in tender schedule, corrigendum, amendment, if any shall be available on the E-tender portal only and same will not be publish in the newspaper. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/ description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. **Note:** Prospective bidders may regular visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all tenders. Help Desk contact no. 033-2450-3783. **(PR-846)**

EASTERN RAILWAY

Open Tender Notice No. MC/40/C/RSP/DOOR BLOCKING/2025-26, dated 13.11.2025. E-tender is invited by Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Station Road, PIN-713301 for the following work : **Tender No. MC-40-C-RSP-DOOR BLOCK. Name of Work** : "Blocking & Reduction in Height of Doors in 3000 BOXN Wagons." **Tender Value** : ₹ 2,56,86,735.00. **Cost of Tender Documents :** Nil. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 2,78,400.00. **Completion period of the work :** 12 months. **Date and Time of Closing & Opening :** 05.12.2025 at 11.00 hrs. Complete details can be seen in the Railway's website **www.ireps.gov.in**

ASN-241/2025-26

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela (Distt. - Saran), Bihar - 841221

Open E-Tender Notice No.: RWP/STORES /WORKS/ADVT/2025-26/13, Dated: 13.11.2025. Tender No. S_RWP_TPT_ERC_2025-26_02, Due on 12.12.2025, "Principal Chief Materials Manager/Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the **President of India** invites **online "e-Open Tender"**, through Indian Railways E-Procurement Portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in** for transportation of Scrap. **1. Name of work with its location, Qty and completion period :** Collection Loading & Transportation of Elastic Rail Clips (ERC), qty. 3500MT from various locations of Indian Railways to Rail Wheel Plant Bela, Saran, Bihar-841221 under distance slab 500-1000 KM (taking average lead distance 750KM.) Note: Unloading at Destination shall be done by Railways. **Completion period:** 12 months from the date of issuance of LOA, **2. Approx. cost of the work:** Rs. 1,07,88,750.00, **3. Earnest Money to be deposited :** Rs. 2,04,000/-, **4. Tender closing date and time :** 12.12.2025 up to 14:15 hrs., **5. Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. :** For full details and submission of bid kindly visit Portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in**. The prospective firms / bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with IREPS Portal (**www.ireps.gov.in**) for updates including **Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation** with respect to the above tender because no such any notice/information concerned that shall be published in newspaper.

For Principal Chief Material Manager/RWP/Bela
RWP/CPRO/ADVT/2025-26/79

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
ELECTRICAL WORK

Tender No. SUR/TD/T/2025/29. The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Name of Work:** Electrification of Unwired pit lines/sidings of Solapur Division. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 1,53,83,701.79/- **Bid Security:** ₹ 2,26,900/-. **Completion Period:** 12 Months. **Validity of offer:** 60 Days. **Date & time of tender closing on website: 12.12.2025** at **15:00 hours**.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD)
Akar/Sur-67A CR, Solapur

Unsafe and unauthorized work near the railway line is a punishable offence

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
ELECTRICAL WORK

Tender No. SUR/L/T/2024/48R2. The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, General, Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & contractors for the following works. **Name of Work:** Electrical general service portion of work in connection with provision of High mast lighting at 6 Goods shed along lighting arrangement at track side at 5 Goods Shed located over Solapur Division. (Reinvitation). **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 72,24,829.76/- **Bid Security:** ₹ 1,44,500/-. **Completion Period:** 06 Months. **Validity of offer:** 60 Days. **Date & time of tender closing on website: 11.12.2025** at **15:00 hours**. Bid Security cost shall be paid through e-payment on **www.ireps.gov.in** website.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)
Akar/Sur-68 CR, Solapur

Unsafe and unauthorized work near the railway line is a punishable offence

JHARKHAND INSTITUTE OF CRAFT & DESIGN (JICD), Ranchi
(A Govt. of Jharkhand undertaking)
Udyog Bhawan, Ratu Road, Ranchi-834001

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RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Jharkhand Institute of Craft & Design (JICD) invites applications for selection on contractual basis for the following posts for running four years degree courses in 04 various courses in Craft Design and Design Entrepreneurship education, research and development-

Sl. No.	Name of Post	No. of post
1.	Director	01
2.	Associate Senior Faculty (Textile & Apparel faculty)	01
3.	Faculty (Textile & Apparel faculty)	01
4.	Associate Senior Faculty (Craft & Culture faculty)	01
5.	Faculty (Craft & Culture faculty)	01
6.	Associate Senior Faculty (Craft Management & Entrepreneurship faculty)	01
7.	Faculty (Craft Management & Entrepreneurship faculty)	01
8.	Associate Senior Faculty (Communication and performing art)	01
9.	Faculty (Communication and performing art)	01
10.	Senior Technical Staff(for Textile workshop)	01
11.	Senior Technical Staff(for IT)	01
12.	Senior Technical Staff(for Industrial Design workshop)	01
13.	Senior Technical Staff(for Communication Design workshop)	01
14.	Head Admin	01
15.	Head Accounts	01
16	Head Academics	01
17.	Account staffs	01
18.	Centre Assistant (for resource centre library)	01

The requisite qualification and experience along with application format are available on the **Website:** http://jharsericulture .jharkhand .gov.in

Last date to submit the application form is **13th of December 2025.**

How to apply: Applicants need to fill the prescribed application form online and upload self attested copies of proof of age, qualification, experiences and other required documents.

E-mail:jicd.ranchi@gmail.com.

Sd/-
Director

PR.NO.366192 Directorate of Handloom Sericulture and Handicraft(25-26):D

IDEMI
(A Govt. of India Society)
Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
Organized By IDEMI, Mumbai, Ministry of MSME, Govt of India
Government Certificate course on
Artificial Intelligence in supply chain & Logistics Management
Course Timing- 02.00 pm to 5.30 pm
(ONLINE)
Course Date- 22,23,29,30 Nov.2025
Course Duration: 4 Days
Email ID: training@idemi.org Website: www. Idemi.org Ph.:[022] 2405 0301/2/3/4
Contact : * AI-Based Demand Forecasting * Dynamic Route Planning AI Agents * Inventory Optimization with Machine Learning * Supplier Risk and Performance Analytics * Automated Order Prioritization System * AI-Powered Contract Analysis * Predictive Logistics Cost Forecasting * AI-Driven Trade Compliance Verification * Customer Service Chatbots for Logistics * Supply Chain Scenario Simulation Tools * Universal AI AGENT for Logistics and supply chain* and much more
With hands on practical
Course Fees- 4000/-+18% GST (Fees are not refundable)
for whom- Business professionals, Logistics managers, E-commerce entrepreneurs, Students and supply chain analysts.
After Successful Completion Certificate Will be Issued
Scan QR Code for Registration & Fees Payment
Call for details between 10 am to 6 pm
Contact: 9403566219, 8007765693,9869087617

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
Contract of Catering stalls (Tea Stalls) on Stations

E-Auction for allotment of contract for operation of Catering stalls (Tea stalls) at A1,A.B & D.E.F category stations on Solapur Division for a period of Annual & five years. **Auction Catalogue No: SUR-CATG-25-25. Auction Start, Close, date & Time:** Start - 12.00 pm 28.11.2025 Close-13.40 pm 28.11.2025. **Name of Stations:** E-Auction of Tea stall at 1. MOHOL 2. DUDHANI 3. MADHA 4 ARAG 5. MODLIMB 6.LATUR 7.BHIGWAN 8.KURDUWADI. **Mode:** E-Auction through ireps-e auction (Lease module). **Period of the tender:** Annual License Fee & 5 Years with 10% escalation for 4th & 5th years. **Website address:-** All e-auctions details relevant Information and documents are available at Central Railway/Indian railway portal **www.ireps.gov.in** Participants are requested to visits website before applying.

Akar/Sur-70 ACM/Goods/Solapur

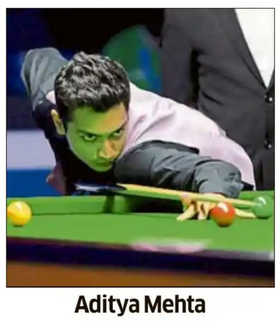
Unsafe and unauthorized work near the railway line is a punishable offence

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
ELECTRICAL WORK

Tender No. SUR/TD/T/2025/19R1. The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Name of Work:** Condition monitoring, repairs & replacement to damaged component of 110KV transmission line, single circuit, two phase, 50 Hz from Mandiyal (GSS) to Gaudgaon (TSS) of Daund -Wadi section in Solapur Division. (Re-invitation). **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 10,31,345.19/- **Bid Security:** ₹ 20,600/-. **Completion Period:** 24 Months. **Validity of offer:** 60 Days. **Date & time of tender closing on website: 10.12.2025** at **15:00 hours**.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD)
Akar/Sur-69 CR, Solapur

Unsafe and unauthorized work near the railway line is a punishable offence



Aditya Mehta

Ex-pro Mehta outsmarts Asif in group affair

BENGALURU, DHNS: India's former professional Aditya Mehta outclassed former IBSF World champion Muhammad Asif in his final league match of the World Cup of Snooker in Muscat on Monday.

The 40-year-old Mumbaikar scored a comfortable 3-1 win over the Pakistani cueist to top the four-player Group 'R' with an all-win record and book his berth in the round of 32.

Three other Indians – Pankaj Advani, Brijesh Damani and Hussain Khan -- too moved into the knockouts. Like Aditya, Advani and Damani also topped their respective groups.

Aditya, a former World Games gold medallist, was on a song from the get-go. He rifled in a gritty break of 77 in the opening frame. Asif restored parity with a fighting 55 in the second frame.

Results (Indians unless mentioned):
Group H: Dhvaj Haria bt Haitham Almahri (Oman) 3-1 (71-16, 58 (57) -42, 27-69, 67-46).
Group J: Brijesh Damani bt Habib Sabah (Bah) 3-1 (30-66, 94 (94) -4, 73-54, 105 (99) -5).
Group K: Hussain Khan bt Tomasz Skalski (Pol) 3-2 (61-65, 75-18, 16-77 (51), 57-23, 59-31).
Group M: Pankaj Advani bt Chang Yu Kiu (HKC) 3-1 (69-22, 0-97 (96), 114 (55, 54) -4, 56-35).
Group R: Aditya Mehta bt Muhammad Asif (Pak) 3-1 (119 (77) -5, 5-82 (55), 117 (117) -0, 69-7); Aditya bt Gebby Putra (Ina) 3-0 (70-33, 131-1, 73-21).

TENNIS ATP FINALS

Sinner has the last laugh

Italian downs rival Alcaraz to triumph for second straight time

TURIN (ITALY), AFP

Jannik Sinner ended a turbulent season in the best possible fashion on Sunday after seeing off Carlos Alcaraz in straight sets, 7-6 (7/4), 7-5 to retain his ATP Finals title in front of delighted fans in Turin.

Italian Sinner brought the house down by winning the championship match tennis fans wanted to see, adding the prestigious year-ending tournament to the Australian Open and a landmark triumph at Wimbledon this season.

The 24-year-old also bounced back from a three-month ban which chopped out a large chunk of his season despite the World Anti-Doping Agency accepting that the Italian was accidentally contaminated with banned substance clostebol last year.

"It has been a really long week... it was a brilliant atmosphere here, it was almost like being at a football match," said Sinner on court to loud cheers.

"I'm really happy to have given something positive to all of you."

Sinner has now won 31 straight matches on indoor hard courts, a run which stretches back to the 2023 championship match at Turin's Inalpi Arena which he lost to Novak Djokovic.

Italy's Jannik Sinner holds aloft the ATP Finals trophy after defeating Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz 7-6 (7/4), 7-5 in the final in Turin on Sunday. AFP

Four more indoor wins would draw him level with Djokovic's tally set between 2012 and 2015 -- the second-highest in the Open era but some way behind John McEnroe's record of 47.

He hasn't dropped a set at the Finals since losing that final to the Serb two years ago, and he was imperious over the week in northern Italy.

Alcaraz, unlike Sinner, now heads into the Davis Cup after a remarkable individual season in which has won eight tournaments in total and taken his Grand Slam tally to six titles.

Spaniard Alcaraz had the edge over Sinner over the course of the season, winning four of their six match-ups, which all decided top-level tournaments, and pipping his rival to the year-end world number one spot.

"I'm really really happy with the level that I played today, with the performance," said Alcaraz. "I mean I just played against someone that hasn't lost a match indoor for two years now, so that means you know how great player you are," Alcaraz told Sinner after the match.

While both Sinner and Alcaraz breezed into the final, the championship game was an attritional affair, with each player rock-solid on serve until an enthralling tie-break at the end of the first set.

Sinner took the lead thanks to a brilliant lob which set up set point, and he made no mistake with a missile of a serve which Alcaraz could only limply send wide.

But Sinner immediately handed Alcaraz the advantage in the second set with two double-faults which helped hand his opponent a break of serve at the start of the frame.

Sinner hadn't dropped a service game in the whole tournament up to that point but he broke back in game six to put the crowd on their feet.

And Sinner collapsed to the ground in joy when Alcaraz sent a backhand wide on the first championship point, before heading into the stands to share his joy with his family amid the roars of the crowd.

Arjun's calm draw sets up rematch

Indian GM signs truce with Wei Yi in quarters

MANISHA MOHITE

Arjun Erigaisi in action during his draw against China's Wei Yi in Goa on Monday. FIDE

Arjun Erigaisi preferred precision over fireworks in the first game of the quarterfinals of the FIDE World Cup as he eked out a draw against Wei Yi in Goa as the 206-player tournament has now trickled down to just eight on Monday.

The draw was achieved by the Indian with almost effortless ease with the Black pieces. Meanwhile, Nodirbek Yakubboev of Uzbekistan was the only player to clinch a victory on the day as he defeated Alexander Donchenko of Germany.

The battles between Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov-Peru's Jose Martinez Alcanatra, and the USA's Sam Shankland-Russia's Andrey Esipenko also ended in deadlocks.

The encounter between Arjun and Wei is almost like a final as both players are the only ones remaining from the top 10 seeds. Interestingly, 34-year-old Shankland is the oldest player in the last eight while the remaining five players are in their twenties.

22-year-old Arjun, who began as the second seed behind world Champion D Gukesh, has easily been the pick among the Indian players. In his latest outing, he decided to battle Wie out in one of the oldest openings in chess, the Ruy Lopez. It was sort of a theoretical tussle between these stalwarts with Wei being the youngest player to reach an Elo 2700 at 15 years while Arjun being only the second Indian to cross the Elo 2800 barrier.

Wei showed no urgency to push for a breakthrough with the White pieces, and Arjun was content to go with the flow, sending a clear message that he was comfortably sticking to his preparation. What followed was a fast-paced exchange of pieces, with both players trading at a furious rate.

By the 31st move, the game had settled into a rook-and-three-pawns-each endgame, where neither player had any incentive to continue. In an amusing twist, Arjun actually ended up with more time than he started with when the draw was agreed, thanks to the time increment of 30 seconds added after each move.

Arjun will play with White in the second game on Tuesday, with a victory securing a semifinal spot, a loss eliminating him, and a draw setting up a tie-breaker on Wednesday.

Round 6 results: GM Wei Yi (Chn) drew with GM Arjun Erigaisi; GM Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb) drew with GM Jose Martinez Alcantara (Mex); GM Sam Shankland (USA) drew with GM Andrey Esipenko (Rus); GM Nodirbek Yakubboev (Uzb) bt GM Alexander Donchenko (Ger).

Boxer Hitesh beats former world champ

GREATER NOIDA, PTI: Young Hitesh Gulia recorded the biggest win of his nascent career, stunning two-time World Championships medallist and Asian Games champion Sewon Okazawa of Japan, as Indian boxers continued their stellar run on the second day of the World Cup Finals here on Monday.

With the narrow 3-2 split verdict win, Hitesh (70kg) moved to the semifinals alongside Jadumani Singh (50kg), Pawan Bartwal (55kg), Sumit Kundu (75kg) and Naveen Kumar (90kg, who also also won their respective quarterfinals.

India are thus assured of 20 medals as nine boxers won their quarterfinals while 11 home pugilists are starting their campaign in the semifinals or final stage.

In the 70kg quarterfinal, both boxers evaded most of each others punches but Hitesh managed to convince three judges to take the first round against his more experienced opponent.

In the second, Okazawa, the 2021 world champion and 2025 World silver medallist, hit back aggressively to take cut Hitesh's lead to just 1. But pumped by the home support, Hitesh landed some decisive blows to register a memorable win.

Armyman Bartwal upstaged World Boxing Cup Brazil gold medalist Altynbek Nursultan of Kazakhstan by unanimous verdict.

Ashwa Simran for main event

DELHI SELECTIONS

Ashwa Simran is fancied to win the upper division of the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Cup, the feature event of Delhi races on Tuesday. The first race starts at 2 pm.

1. Jawaharlal Nehru Cup (Div II) - 1000M: Cool Water 1, Alexander 2, Trending Cruise 3.
2. Red Rose Lover Plate (Div I) - 1000M: My Darling Bobby 1, The Mentalist 2, Euphoria 3.
3. Red Rose Lover Plate (Div II) - 1000M: Last Romance 1, Ashwa Nirjara 2, Gamati 3.
4. Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Cup (Div I) - 1000M: Ashwa Simran 1, She's A Beauty 2, Divit 3.
5. Bal Diwas Plate - 1600M: Eliminator 1, Rinku Romeo 2, Ashwa Sirohi 3.
6. First Prime Minister Plate - 1200M: Jaat Hero 1, Burning Desire 2, Master Multitude 3.
Day's best: My Darling Bobby.
Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.
Treble: 4, 5 & 6.

Norway nail Italy to seal WC ticket

MILAN, AFP

Norway's Erling Haaland (left) and team-mate Julian Ryerson celebrate their win over Italy in Milan on Sunday. REUTERS

Norway qualified for their first World Cup since 1998 after Erling Haaland struck again in a 4-1 thumping of Italy on Sunday which sealed a spot in next summer's finals in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Haaland scored the decisive brace in the space of seconds at a soaking San Siro for Norway, who completed Group I with a perfect 24 points.

Norway would have had to lose by nine goals or more in order to be overtaken by Italy for the group's only automatic place for next summer's WC, but Stale Solbakken's side ended their campaign in glorious fashion.

Italy will head to the playoffs in March after finishing the group six points behind Norway following two bracing defeats to Norway, and exited the San Siro field to a hail of whistles from the home fans.

DR Congo ended Nigeria's hopes of qualifying for the World Cup with a penalty shootout victory in the African playoffs final. DR Congo and Nigeria drew 1-1 after extra time in the tie in Rabat and won 4-3 on penalties to book a place in inter-confederation playoffs.

Results (Europe): Group D: Azerbaijan: 1 (Dadasov 4th) lt to France: 3 (Mateta 17th, Aklioucheh 30th, Magomedaliyev 45 og); Ukraine: 2 (Zubkov 83rd, Hutsuliak 90+3) bt Iceland: 0. **Group F:** Portugal: 9 (Veiga 7th, Ramos 28th, Neves 30th, 41st, 81st, Fernandes 45+3, 52nd, 72nd, Conceicao 90+2) bt Armenia: 1 (Spertsyan 18th); Hungary: 2 (Lukacs 4th, Varga 37th) lt to Ireland: 3 (Parrott 15th, 80th, 90+6).

Group I: Italy: 1 (Esposito 11th) lt to Norway: 4 (Nusa 63rd, Haaland 78th, 79th, Strand Larsen 90+3); Israel: 4 (Turgeman 21st, Revivo 65th, E Peretz 85th, Baboglo 88 og) bt Moldova: 1 (Nicolaescu 37th).

Gurpreet shoots silver as India finish third in World Championships

CAIRO, PTI

Olympian Gurpreet Singh came agonisingly close to becoming the world champion in men's 25m Centre Fire Pistol event but eventually got a silver after losing on inner 10s to Ukraine's Pavlo Korostylov at the Olympic Shooting Range here.

This was Gurpreet's second individual medal in the World Championships, the first also being a silver won back in 2018 at Changwon in the 25m Standard Pistol event. Yann Pierre Louis Fridrici of France won the bronze here.

Gurpreet Singh

India thus ended their World Championship campaign in third place with a total of 13 medals, including three gold, six silver and four bronze behind China. The Chinese team mustered 12 gold, seven silver and two bronze.

South Korea secured seven gold, three silver and four bronze medals to end second in the overall standings.

Gurpreet shot a total of 584-18x over two days of competition in the precision and rapid stages, while Korostylov shot 29 inner 10s and a perfect score of 100 in the final rapid round to edge away with the gold medal. Singh, who was placed ninth earlier, bounced back on the second day to clinch the silver medal.

FCBU post narrow win to set up virtual final

BENGALURU, DHNS

Kickstart FC's Ngairangbam Rakesh Singh (centre) falls after a tackle by FC Real Bengaluru's R Karthikeyan (bottom left) during KSFA Super Division League Championship at BFS in Bengaluru on Monday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Lijo K's sole early goal kept FC Bengaluru United in the hunt for the title as they defeated United Stars FC 1-0 in their penultimate match of the KSFA Super Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Monday.

The result sets the second-placed FCBU (42 points) for a virtual final against Kickstart FC on November 20 as the table toppers (45 points) won 6-0 in their match earlier in the day against 9th-placed FC Real Bengaluru (22 points).

Saikhon Borish Singh (24th and 34th) and Godwin Johnson (27th, 90+4th) starred in the goalfest with a brace each while Ngairbgbam Rakesh Singh (58th) and R Rahul (87th) piled on Real Bengaluru's misery.

Kickstart and FCBU, who have played 17 matches each, will square off in their last group match on Thursday. Last year's runners-up Kickstart, who let slip the trophy last season that was in their grasp after conceding an equaliser in the dying seconds of their final group game against Bengaluru FC, this time need just a draw to emerge champions.

For FC Bengaluru United, nothing less than a win will do as they will go equal on points with head-to-head result deciding the winners.

Results: Kickstart FC: 6 (Saikhom Borish Singh 24th, 34th; Godwin Johnson 27th, 90+4th; Ngairbgbam Rakesh Singh 58th; R Rahul 87th) bt FC Real Bengaluru: 0; FC Bengaluru United: 1 (Lijo K 8th) bt United Stars FC: 0; ASC & Centre FC: 2 (Adil Abbas AK 64th, Tongbram Krishnakant Singh 90+2nd) bt Agniputhra: 0.

Satwik-Chirag pair anchors India's hopes

SYDNEY, PTI

With India's singles stars still searching for rhythm, the spotlight will once again be on Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty as the top-seeded men's doubles pair eyes its first title of the season at the Australian Open Super 500 starting here on Tuesday.

The Asian Games champions have been the bright spots in an otherwise troubled season for Indian badminton, weaving together a second World Championships bronze and back-to-back runner-up finishes at the Hong Kong Super 500 and China Masters Super 750.

ಕೃಷಿ ಮಾರಾಟ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ
ಮಹಾತ್ಮಗಾಂಧಿ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ, ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣ, ಯಶವಂತಪುರ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560022 ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 23472850/23371695
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್:apmcbangalore22@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕೃಉಮಾಸ(ಬೆಂ)/ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ/3571/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.11.2025

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿಯ ಯಶವಂತಪುರ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿರುವ ಬಹುಮಹಡಿ ಕಾರು ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ ಕಟ್ಟಡದ ಕಾರ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾದ Financial Module ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲು Expression of Interest ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಷರತ್ತು-ವಾ-ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. (APMC/2025- 26/PREQUAL Tender _Number_4)
ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24-11-2025, ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:02-12-2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಸಿಪಿ/3859/ಸಿಸಿಎಲ್/2025-26 ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಕೃಉಮಾಸ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

DEPARTMENT OF STATE EDUCATION RESEARCH AND TRAINING
No.4, 100 Ft Ring Road, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085.
Phone No.: 080-26980100. E-mail: dpi.dsert-ka@nic.in,
Website: http://dsert.kar.nic.in

No: E-66367/DSERT/EDST/STDM/1/2025-ETC Dated: 17-11-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK E-Procurement Portal only)

Director, Department of State Education Research and Training, Bengaluru is inviting e-tender from eligible agencies for E-TENDER FOR PROVIDING THE TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICE FOR OPERATING STUDIOs AT DSERT. Tender No.DPI/2025-26/SE0378/CALL-2 Last date for submitting e-tender is **26-11-2025 at 5.30 p.m.** For more details please log on to website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Joint Director,
DSERT, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3854AAA/2025-26

ZILLA PANCHAYATH, TUMKUR
RURAL DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION DIVISION TUMKUR
Tender notification NO.11/EE/RDWS&SD/TMK/ LAB/OUTSOURCE/2161/2025-26
Date: 15-11-2025

On Behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Tumkur Invites Tender For Water Quality Testing Laboratory Employee in Tumkur District Lab and Madhugiri, Tiptur Taluk LABS Through Manpower service Agencies on Out Source basis. The Eligible Bidders Are Required To Submit Through Karnataka Public Procurement mode through portal. **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)** (Minimum Tender Amount **Rs. 49.56 Lakhs** EMD Amount **Rs. 99,120/-**)

Sl. No	Particulars	Details
1	Last date of submit bids on Karnataka Public Procurement portal	**25-11-2025 Upto 17.00 Hours**
2	Technical Opening of Bids	**26-11-2025 at 5.30 PM onwards**
3	Financial Opening of Bids	**28-11-2025 at 5.30 PM onwards**

For further particulars/details may avail from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days and may visit the website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)**

Sd/- (SRI K.M. Kumaraswamy)
Executive Engineer
RDW&S, Divison, TUMKUR

DIPR/TUM/RO-162/25-26/Oysters

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಸ್ತುಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ದೊಡ್ಡಕೆರೆ ಮೈದಾನ, ಇಂದಿರಾನಗರ, ಮೈಸೂರು-570010.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ (ಕಛೇರಿ): 0821-2523626
e-mail::exhibitionauthority@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ಕವಪ್ರಾ/ಮುಕಾನಿ/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.11.2025

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಸ್ತುಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಆವರಣವನ್ನು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ "ಇ" ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: Providing Chainlink Fencing, Cobble stone Pathway, M.S.Gallery Steps, Entrance Steps and M.S.Gate, Seating Arrangement above Chlorination Room, Streetlight Pole and Lawn area Gravel Work other allied works inside Dragon Pond area at Karnataka Exhibition Premises, Mysuru. **ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಮೊತ್ತ:** Rs.50,98,987/- **ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 24.11.2025 AT 1 PM.

ಸದರಿ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಸಿವಿಲ್), ರವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೋರಿದೆ. ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 9900568915, 7892920878.
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: exhibitionauthority@gmail.com

ಸಹಿ/- ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಸ್ತುಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

DIPR/DDMYS/1240/KSMCA/687/2025-26

IN BRIEF

Niyati wears snooker crown

▸ Niyati P Aradhya **(in pic)** defeated Tanisha Gowda 2-0 (39-16, 42-41) to clinch the KSBA State-ranking Sub-junior girls' snooker title on Monday, reports DHNS.

Sanga back as RR coach

▸ Rajasthan Royals on Monday announced the appointment of Sri Lanka legend Kumar Sangakkara as their head coach for the 2026 Indian Premier League (IPL) season, following the exit of Rahul Dravid from the role, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Dravid had left the franchise in August this year and Sangakkara, who has been the franchise's Director of Cricket since 2021, will be returning as the head coach having served in the same role from 2021-2024.

Yashica to lead State side

▸ Yashica Haribabu will lead Karnataka in the Dr Talimeren Ao Junior Girls National Football Championship in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh from Nov 19-Dec 7, reports DHNS from Bengaluru.

Karnataka will open their campaign against Chhattisgarh on Nov 19 followed by group-stage clashes against Gujarat (Nov 21) and Manipur (Nov 23).

Squad: Yashica Haribabu (capt), Prayukta Arya, Ura Dimri, Divya Sriram, Charvi Anand, T Charisma Lois, Poojita Reddy, Nida Sheikh, Vaishnavi M, Smera Sujith, Rachana D Kalg, Sinchana VN, Ananya Gupta, Sanjana Nair, Cathrine Thanga, Shravani Mahajan, Diya Murthy, Avika Deshmukh, Mamta Mula, Suzanne Kshetrimayun.
Head coach: Shanthi; **Assistant coach:** Rohith Kumar; **Manager:** S Saidyashree; **Physio:** Chandini.

CCC chess meet on Nov 30

▸ Champions Chess Academy will be conducting a rapid chess tournament on November 30 in the U-16 and U-10 categories at its premises in Rajarajeshwari Nagar, reports DHNS from Bengaluru.

The last date for registration is Nov 28. For details, visit www.championschessacademy.com or call Balakrishna Prabhu: 9845466416.

Cummins to lead SRH again

▸ Australia's premier fast bowler Pat Cummins was on Monday appointed as captain of Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) for third consecutive IPL season, reports PTI from Hyderabad.

SRH confirmed Cummins role as leader on its 'X' handle with his pictures without divulging details.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Ranji Trophy: Madhya Pradesh vs Kerala, Tamil Nadu vs Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh vs Chhattisgarh **(Day 3, 9:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network & JioHotstar,**

Asia Cup Rising Stars: India vs Oman **(8 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 1.**

FOOTBALL

WC Qualifiers: Scotland vs Denmark, Spain vs Turkey, Sweden vs Slovenia, Wales vs North Macedonia **(all 1:15 am on Wednesday)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

AFC Asia Cup Qualifiers: Bangladesh vs India **(9 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

CRICKET TEST SERIES

Climate of insecurity is AVOIDABLE

Gambhir, Agarkar's selection choices have created more confusion than clarity

MADHU JAWALI
KOLKATA, DHNS

For all the accolades that Virat Kohli earned as India's Test captain, he had one notorious image: Not fielding the same 11 in two consecutive Tests in his first 38 matches as skipper.

Strategic balance based on conditions and opposition's strengths and weaknesses should always dictate team selections, but Kohli's habit of constantly tinkering with combinations often felt baffling and at times even superstitious. While that left fans curious ahead of each Test during his captaincy, now under Head Coach Gautam Gambhir and chief selector Ajit Agarkar, it seems to be the players who stay anxious about when their next match or series might come.

Selections, whether of the squad or the playing XI, have looked increasingly random over the past year, especially in Test cricket. Players are picked, benched and dropped with little clarity or strategic grounding. Gambhir and Agarkar, both former internationals of stature, undoubtedly want the best for Indian cricket, but the way they are handling their roles has likely left many players within the squad and on the fringes feeling unsure and insecure about their place and future. Even the messaging from the team management lacks consistency.

Take the case of Nitish Kumar Reddy. He is selected as a medium-pace all-rounder yet rarely gets the opportunity to perform either role. Bowling coach Morne Morkel has voiced sympathy, noting minimal game time he gets in India despite featuring in the XI. Gambhir, however, isn't as kind. He believes merely being part of the national setup is enough to foster growth.

Even on pitch assessments, the management appears out of sync. Morkel admitted after the second day's play here that he did not expect the wicket to deteriorate as quickly as it did, while Gambhir insisted the surface behaved exactly as intended.

The team management's thought process and actions are so arbitrary it has created a climate of uncertainty among the players.

Someone like Kuldeep Yadav, a genuine wicket-taker whose skills take the nature of the pitches out of equation, didn't get a single Test in England. Worse, Shardul Thakur was picked out of nowhere and played ahead of the left-arm wrist spinner in the first and fourth Tests only to be so sparingly used that he publicly expressed disappointment with skipper Shubman Gill for not trusting his bowling.

Karun Nair also had reason to feel aggrieved when he was ignored for the home series against the West Indies. At 34, he may not be a long-term option, and only a big run tally in England could have changed perceptions. But the constant shuffling of his batting position from No. 6 in the first Test to No. 3 in the second and third, then back to No. 6 in the fifth, did little to help him settle. Even so, he managed a half-century in the final Test on easily the most difficult wicket in the entire series but it was too late and too little for the selectors to continue with him. As it turns out, the Karnataka batter is raking in hundreds for fun in the Ranji Trophy now.

Similarly, Sai Sudharsan was tipped to be the team's future at No. 3 and was persisted with till he succeeded in the previous Test series against West Indies but found himself out of the XI in Kolkata against South Africa as the team management wanted to play four spinners without compromising on their batting might. That fourth-spinning all-rounder was Washington Sundar who was given just one over in the match. It's not the captain's fault because having got "exactly the kind of pitch" they wanted, there was hardly any room to bring in the fourth spinner into play.

There is no explanation why Sarfaraz Khan was kept out without giving a single match on the tour of Australia. No reason has been assigned as to why Mohammed Shami remains in international wilderness. Whether it is whims and preferences of a few or just a case of well-meaning intentions going wrong, it's not helping the cause of Indian cricket.

The Indian team think-tank's constant constant shuffling of the playing XI has seemingly left some players bemused. AFP

Gill doubtful for second Test

Indian skipper Shubman Gill is unlikely to feature in the second Test against South Africa, with Cricket Association of Bengal sources confirming that he is not travelling to Guwahati with the team on Wednesday, reports PTI from Kolkata.

"He has acute neck pain, and we're not allowed to further go to details about the injury. He has to keep continuing wearing the neck collar," the source told PTI.

"He has been advised three-four days rest and not to take flight. In this situation, he is not advised to travel to Guwahati. But we are monitoring his progress on a daily basis and the picture will be clearer by Tuesday," the sources added.

The Indian team is scheduled to travel to Guwahati on Wednesday for the second and final Test, starting Saturday.

Head coach Gautam Gambhir said at the post-match press conference that Gill was "still being assessed", with another round of evaluations to be carried out by the physio and medical staff.

Kolkata win will do wonders to our psyche: SA coach

MADHU JAWALI
KOLKATA, DHNS

Shukri Conrad

South Africa weren't given much of a chance in the first Test here against India despite contrasting fortunes the two teams have gone through in recent times. While India haven't had the best of time even in home conditions, 3-0 loss to New Zealand being their lowest point, the Proteas have been riding the crest of a wave of success.

They became only the third team after New Zealand and Australia to win the World Test Championship in June this year and managed to draw the two-Test series in Pakistan. Yet, South Africa considered themselves underdogs against Shubman Gill and Co.

With two and half days of the first Test in Eden Gardens in six years, they turned the predictions upside down, ending their 15-year long winless run on Indian soil.

Beating India in India was obviously special, but beating them in their own game -- through spinners -- was icing on the cake.

"I said it a few days ago, we won the World Test Championship final earlier in the year against Australia at Lord's but this was right up there for us," South Africa coach Shukri Conrad said after the Test. "Coming to India, playing at Eden Gardens, doing something we haven't done for 15 years, when I say we I talk of the Proteas, this is right up there."

Conrad felt the win will lift the morale of the team do wonders for its psyche.

"You can only but dream of coming here and I'm sure Simon (Harmer) mentioned a few things in the post-match as well, like the dark experience this team has had coming here and the psyche now is such that whilst we might not have the ability that a lot of teams have and we haven't untapped that ability yet, what we lack in that we certainly make up in the ability to play as a unit and the resilience that we show we the belief that they've got and how they pull together as a unit.

"It will do wonders for our psyche and it will do wonders for us going forward. We won a Test match in Pakistan, we've now won a Test match here (in India) but the job is far from done. You don't come to a country to win a Test match, you obviously want to win a series so I'm sure the boys will celebrate. We've got two extra days to recover so Guwahati will present its own challenges and I'm pretty certain and quietly confident that we'll be up to the task there as well."

Conrad was also happy to see his spinners orchestrating their win which signaled that they were no longer an exclusive "fast bowling country" and hoped that a lot more slow bowlers will emerge.

"We are thrilled that we can come here to the subcontinent with a quality pack of spinners. We were always found wanting when we came to the subcontinent. I think it was a mindset change as well, that you've got to start showing your belief in spin bowlers.

"I think it will do wonders for our game back home as well because youngsters can now see there's a line of thought that we're keen on spinners as well. It's not only a fast bowling country."

Uncertainty over KSCA poll date

After EO defers elections, KSCA cites HC order to hold them as scheduled

BENGALURU, DHNS

Both Venkatesh Prasad and KN Shanth Kumar-led teams want the KSCA elections to be held on November 30. DH FILE PHOTO

Following a day of dramatic developments, uncertainty loomed large over the date of the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) elections, which were scheduled to be held on November 30 as per earlier notifications.

On Monday, Electoral Officer B Basavaraaju wrote to the KSCA, postponing the elections to December 30 in order to clear all the doubts and confusion among the members regarding eligibility questions over certain candidates.

AV Shashidara, a member of the KSCA, had filed a civil suit in the Trial Court, challenging the manner in which an interpretation was adopted by the Managing Committee of the state association regarding the nine-year term rule, and had obtained an Interim Order without hearing KSCA (Ex Parte).

The Electoral Officer had postponed the polls citing the Trial Court's injunction order indicating that the next hearing date would be on December 16.

However, following an order from the Karnataka High Court, vacating the Trial Court's interim order, KSCA CEO Shubhendu Ghosh has officially requested the Electoral Officer to recall his letter postponing the elections and conduct the elections on November 30, as announced earlier.

Meanwhile, both Team Brijesh, led by KN Shanth Kumar, and Game Changers, led by Venkatesh Prasad, urged that the elections be held as scheduled on November 30.

Prasad, who is contesting for the president's post, expressed his shock over the postponement in a hurriedly called news conference at the Chinnaswamy Stadium.

"As it is, there has been a delay of more than two months. They then gave a decision saying that it's going to happen on 30th of November. But now, even that is deferred and that is shocking to hear," said Prasad.

Team Brijesh, led by presidential aspirant Shanth Kumar, maintained that they were also keen on having the elections as per the earlier schedule.

"We assure our members that we will put in all efforts to ensure that the elections are conducted and our prime objective has always been to protect Karnataka Cricket and ensure our BCCI affiliation is continued and our players are able to participate in the BCCI tournaments," a release from Patel's team said.

Rohith century hands Karnataka the lead

BENGALURU, DHNS: A crucial century by Rohith AA gave Karantaka a first innings lead of 33 runs against Uttarakhand on Day 2 of their BCCI-Cooch Behar Trophy game at Alur grounds here on Monday.

The lower middle-order batter's 101 stood out as he took Karnataka past Uttarakhand's first innings total of 202 while batting with the tailenders. His resilience helped the hosts recover from 107/5 to 235 all out as he was the last batter to be dismissed right after reaching the triple figure, laced with 11 boundaries.

Orthodox bowler Priyanshu Singh was pick among Uttarakhand bowlers with a spell of 3/44.

Uttarakhand batted for just an over for no run in their second innings before the umpires ended the day's play.

Brief scores: Uttarakhand: 202 all out & 0/0 in 1 over vs Karnataka: (O/n: 16/1): 235 all out (Vaibhav Sharma 35, Rohith AA 101; Priyanshu Singh 3-44, Chetan Singh 2-56, Akash Kumar 2-55, Nishu Patel 2-28.

Manvanth, Dhruv star in victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karantaka remained in the hunt for the knockout rounds as they defeated Tripura by eight wickets in their penultimate Group D match of the Men's U-23 State A Trophy elite in Jaipur on Monday.

In what was a one-sided encounter, pacer Manvanth Kumar's 4/42 restricted Tripura to 184/8 in 50 overs before Dhruv Prabhakar's 55-ball 84 and skipper Aneeshwar Gautam's unbeaten 78 (off 42) took Karnataka to 186/2 in just 18.5 overs.

Karnataka are third with 12 points (three wins and two losses) and need a top-two finish in order to qualify for the quarterfinals. They will need to beat bottom-placed Hyderabad, who lost all their matches so far, in their last group match on November 19 and hope second-placed Tamil Nadu (12 points from 4 games) have unfavourable results in their remaining two matches.

Brief scores: Tripura: 184/8 in 50 overs (Saptajit Das 36, Sahil Sultan 36, Arkajit Roy 27, Swarab Sahani 34 n.o., Manvanth Kumar L 4-42, Dhruv Prabhakar 2-32) lt to Karnataka: 186/2 in 18.5 overs (Dhruv Prabhakar 84, Aneeshwar Gautam 78 n.o.)

Smaran R scored a brilliant double hundred to put Karnataka in a position of strength on the second day against Chandigarh in Hubballi. DH PHOTO/GOVINDRAJ JAVALI

Smaran smashes second double ton

BENGALURU, DHNS

Fast-rising young batter R Smaran smashed his second double century of the season as heavyweights Karnataka tightened the noose on bottom-dwellers Chandigarh in their Ranji Trophy Elite Group B fixture in Hubballi on Monday.

The 22-year-old Smaran, playing in his sophomore season and determined to make a name for himself in a transitioning Karnataka side, cracked an unbeaten 227 off 362 balls (16x4, 2x6) that powered the hosts to a massive 547/8 declared in 160 overs at the KSCA Stadium. Following Smaran's heroics, veteran spinner Shreyas Gopal, who too has been in irresistible form this season, scalped 3/18 in 4.4 overs to reduce the visitors to 72/4 in 17.4 overs.

Resuming on a personal score of 110 and the team on 298/5, Smaran held the key between a massive score and a competitive one for Karnataka. Thankfully for him and Karnataka, all-rounder Shreyas gave him good support with a measured 62 off 147 balls as the hosts got the perfect start to the proceedings. Both Shreyas and Smaran were cautious at the start of the day as the early winter weather made for nippy conditions. But once both got their eyes in, they started to play their shots to up the tempo.

Right when their 141-run partnership was moving along nicely, Shreyas was trapped out by Vishu Kashyap. The dismissal though didn't stall Smaran's momentum as he took the attack on Chandigarh in blistering fashion. He first forged a 76-run stand for the seventh wicket with Vidyadhar Patil (30) before knocking the stuffing out of Chandigarh with a 111-run stand for the eighth wicket with Shikhar Shetty, the latter scoring 59 off 122 balls.

SCOREBOARD

KARNATAKA (I Innings, O/n: 298/5): KV Aneesh c Thakur b Bawa 2 (26b) Mayank Agarwal b Jagjit 9 (20b, 2x4), KL Shrijith lbw Birla 17 (53b, 1x4) Karun Nair lbw Taranpreet 95 (164b, 12x4, 1x6), R Smaran (not out) 227 (362b, 16x4, 2x6), Abhinav Manohar b Birla 11 (14b, 1x6), Shreyas Gopal lbw Kashyap 62 (147b, 5x4), Vidyadhar Patil b Jagjit Singh 30 (51b, 4x4), Shikhar Shetty c&b Kashyap 59 (122b, 7x4), Mohsin Khan (not out) 5 (3b, 1x4). Extras (B-24, LB-4, NB-2) 30. **TOTAL (for 8 wkts decl, 160 overs) 547.**
Fall of wickets: 1-13 (Agarwal), 2-13 (Aneesh), 3-64 (Shrijith), 4-183 (Nair), 5-210 (Manohar), 6-351 (Shreyas), 7-427 (Vidyadhar).
Bowling: Jagjit Singh 24-4-70-2, Raj Bawa 16-4-49-1, Vishu Kashyap 50-6-141-2, Nishunk Birla 46-1-159-2, Taranpreet Singh 20-0-80-1, Arjun Azad 3-0-16-0, Ankit Kaushik 1-0-4-0.
CHANDIGARH (I Innings): Shivam Bhambri b Shreyas 16 (30b, 2x4), Arjun Azad b Mohsin 32 (29b, 3x4, 1x6), Vishu Kashyap lbw Shreyas 5 (14b), Manan Vohra (batting) 14 (22b, 1x4), Nikhil Thakur c Shrijith b Shreyas 1 (11b). Extras (B-4) 4. **TOTAL (for 4 wkts, 17.4 overs) 72.**
Fall of wickets: 1-41 (Azad), 2-53 (Bhambri), 3-58 (Kashyap), 4-72 (Thakur).
Bowling: Vidwath Kaverappa 2-1-4-0, Vidyadhar Patil 4-1-23-0, Mohsin Khan 6-0-23-1, Shreyas Gopal 4.4-0-18-3, Shikhar Shetty 1-1-0-0.
Other Group B brief scores: At New Chandigarh: Maharashtra (O/n: 275/5): 350 all out in 113.3 overs (Pritvi Shaw 74, Arshin Kulkarni 133, Ramakrishna Ghosh 32; Gurnoor Brar 4-115, Ayush Goyal 2-68, Harpreet Brar 2-82, Mayank Markande 2-56) vs Punjab: 125/4 in 47 overs (Harnoor Singh 26, Anmol Malhotra 34 n.o.; Rajneesh Gurbani 2-26).
At Saurashtra: Saurashtra (O/n: 317/4): 585/7 decl in 150 overs (Harvik Desai 45, Jay Gohil 68, Arpit Vasavada 81, Prerak Mankad 155, Sammar Gajjar 116, Hetvik Kotak 40 n.o.; Darshan Misal 4-195) vs Goa: 125/2 in 30 overs (Abhinav Tejrana 75 n.o.).
At Indore: Kerala (O/n: 246/7): 281 all out in 114.4 overs (Abhishek Nair 47, Baba Aparajith 98, Abhijith Praveen 60; Saransh Jain 3-40, Arshad Khan 4-54) vs Madhya Pradesh: 155/6 in 61 overs (Saransh Jain 41 n.o., Aryan Pandey 33 n.o.; MD Nidheesh 2-39, Eden Apple Tom 2-40).

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